

Gaudete / The 3rd Sunday of Advent
Jesus and St. John the Baptist
December 13, 2020
11:00am



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



ST. PAUL

— BERA EST. 1866 —

W E L C O M E

To know and serve Christ by reaching out in love to all.

Please wear a mask during this service and while you are in the building.

This service has been modeled after the Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting One and does not include congregational singing. All singing will be done by Pastor and secluded choir members.

Our financial gifts are offered as a response to what God has given us, and as a reminder that we are caretakers of the world he created. Our members support this church. Visitors are not expected to give an offering. Offerings will be collected in the plates as you exit the nave.

Ushers will direct the way to exit after the service.

Thank you for your understanding and patience. Your health is our concern.



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Due to necessary restrictions on congregational singing, Pastor and choir members will sing the congregation's parts throughout the service.

Prelude

Magnificat

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

Every Valley

G.F. Handel

↑ Confession

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please kneel as you are able.

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Please stand.

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

↓ Introit (Psalm 85:1-2,6,8; antiphon: Phil. 4:4-5)

R: Rejoice in the Lord / always;*

again I will / say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to / everyone.*

The Lord / is at hand.

P: LORD, you were favorable / to your land;*

you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people;*

you covered / all their sin.

Will you not revive / us again, *

that your people may re- / joice in you?

Let me hear what God the / LORD will speak, *

for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;

but let them not turn back to / folly.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son*

and to the Holy / Spirit;

as it was in the be- / ginning, *

is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

R: Rejoice in the Lord / always;*

again I will / say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to / everyone.*

The Lord / is at hand.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: Today is the third Sunday of Advent, the Sunday of **joy**.

The Christmas angel announced: "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people, for to you is born this day, in the city of David, a savior, who is Christ, the Lord.

We light this candle in joy.

The assistant lights two purple candles, and the rose candle.

P: We pray: Loving God, thank you for the joy you have given us in Jesus Christ your son, our Lord. Prepare our hearts for his coming, and help us to bring joy to others. We ask it in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Greeting and Collect

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore you to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



The Hebrew Scriptures (Isaiah 40:1-11)

A: A reading from Isaiah:

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!”

¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
 behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead those that are with young.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*Psalm 80:1-2*)

**R: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, / shine forth.*
 Stir up your might and come to / save us!
Give ear, O Shepherd of / Israel,*
 you who lead Joseph / like a flock!**

The Christian Scriptures (*1 Corinthians 4:1-5*)

A: A reading from Corinthians:

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

↑ The Gospel Acclamation

R Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold, the
King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.

The image shows a musical score for a vocal part. It consists of three staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. A red square with a white letter 'R' is placed at the beginning of the first line of lyrics. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests and ties.



The Holy Gospel (*Matthew 11:2-11*)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew:

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”

⁴ And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father, almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
born of the virgin Mary.
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father.
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

↓ Choral Reflection

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LBW 70

Sermon

Pastor Dan Skillman

Musical Offering

Joy Shall be Yours in the Morning

H. Frasier-Simson

Announcements

Prayers of the People

A: Lord, in your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Sanctus



R

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Words of Institution

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promises to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

He broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, give for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,

he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.



P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup,

we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours,

Holy one of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

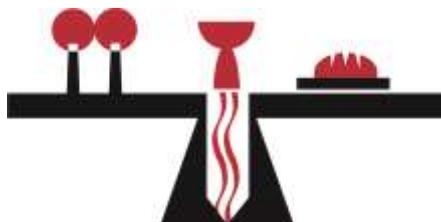
C: Amen.

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

↓ Distribution



Advent Invitation

R: *Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.*

*Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle

R: *Lord, dismiss us with your blessing,
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us,
trav'ling through this wilderness.*

*Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to your truth may we be found.*

Post-Communion Collect

A: We pray: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Choral Sending

How Great Our Joy

John Rutter

Dismissal

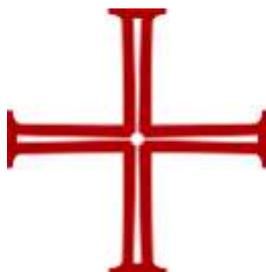
A: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Joy to the World

Hugo Gehrke



Contributors to the Service

Presiding Minister

Rev. Dan Skillman

Organist

Dale Hukill

Assisting Minister

Liz Wittmann

Covenant Singers

*Andrea Soncina, Mary Murphy, Shaun McGrath,
Loren Reash-Henz*

Ushers

Members of Team 3 and 4

Audio/Video

Phillip Sultan, Jeff Campbell, Nate French



NEXT SUNDAY SERVICES

December 20, 2020

9:00 am "Drive In"

11:00 am "In Building"

Rorate Coeli / The 4th Sunday of Advent

The Confession of St. John the Baptist

READINGS

John 1:19-28 (Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Philippians 4:4-7)

Listen again to music and sermons: www.stpaulbera.org/music

Watch again by following the YouTube at: www.stpaulbera.org

Sermon Notes

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<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Aaron Ozanich</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Jen Hinton</i>
<i>Council Members:</i>	<i>Lynne Morella, Peter Brumenschenkel, Phillip Sultan, Rob Winwood, Donna Tindera, Dan Skillman</i>

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<i>Nursery Care Attendant</i>	<i>Gail Brandt</i>
<i>Custodian</i>	<i>Gail Voigt-Ryan</i>

Early Education Center

<i>Board Chair</i>	<i>Joan Holden</i>
<i>Director & Teachers</i>	<i>Liz Campbell & Sharon Genther</i>

Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Weekdays 9-12, 1-4

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