

3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 15, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Speak to an usher if you would like a hearing assistive device

* All who are able may stand; congregation reads bold print

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING/BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free.

As we light these Advent candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus. Amen

(Congregation Sings)

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain***

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel

**O come, O Dayspring, come, and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain***

***CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might, we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst, we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

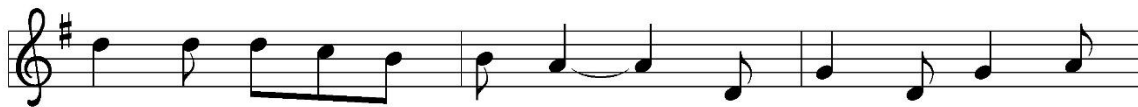
A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✝ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG** *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn* ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
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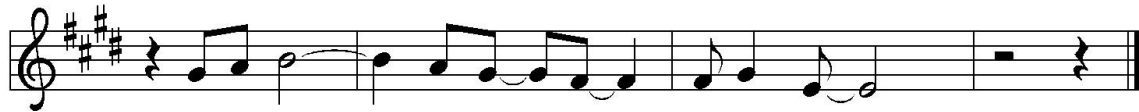
***GREETING**

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

***KYRIE**



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world. . . *Refrain*
 That we may live out your impassioned response. . . *Refrain*
 For peace in our heart. . . *Refrain*
 For your Spirit to guide. . . *Refrain*

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. **Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah, the 3rd Chapter.

- ¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
- ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
- ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
¹⁸ as on a day of festival.”
- I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
- ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
- ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Isaiah 12:2-6

- ² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my
salvation.
- ³ **With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**
- ⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this
name is exalted.
- ⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**
- ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

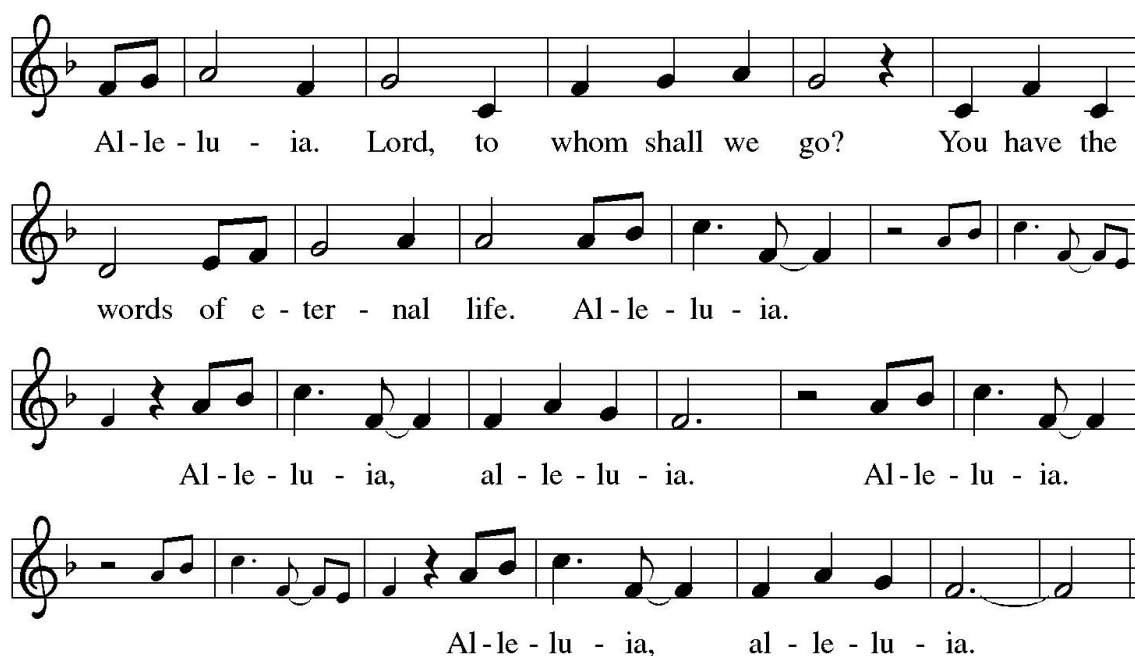
A reading from Philippians, the 4th Chapter.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

The holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of

them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Anna Rieke

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Hark, A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding* ELW 246



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is near,” we
 2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond - age
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. “Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
 let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
 down from heav’n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
 wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
 and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!”
 shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 one and all, to be for - giv’n;
 and with words of love draw near.
 while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

***APOSTLES' CREED**

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 he will come 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.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE May the peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

MUSIC OFFERING *Savior of the Nations, Come* arr Larry, Sue, & Johann
4-in-hand duet Walther, 1524
Breezy Winkle & Jill Nelles-Voss, handbells

***OFFERING RESPONSE**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above ye heav'nly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**


***OFFERING PRAYER**

**Let us pray. Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

| | |
|--|---|
| The Lord be with you. | And also with you. |
| Lift up your hearts. | We lift them to the Lord. |
| Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. | It is right to give our thanks and praise. |

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise. . .we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Pastor Anna Rieke

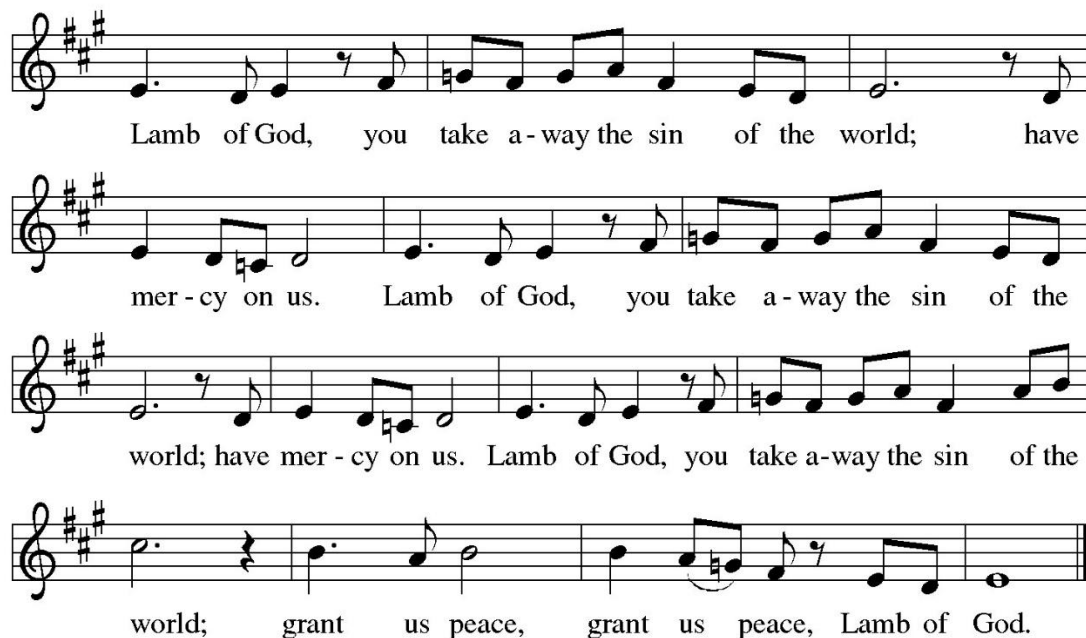
***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Green Hymnal, p. 91

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All are welcome to commune

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

***BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Let us pray. **Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.**

***BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey, ✚ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

***SENDING SONG**

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Advent in F George Matthison-Hansen
Lincoln Wright, organ

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Today's Service Participants

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Ushers: | Jon & Brent |
| Lighting Advent Wreath: | Loraine Morris & Sue Mayfield |
| Lector: | Donna Guerin |
| Communion Assistants: | Donna Guerin & Jill Nelles-Voss |
| Hospitality: | Advent Tea |
| Flowers: | Jon & Jill Voss in memory of Dennis, Carol, and Alex Nelles' birthdays |

Thank you for assisting with the service this morning. **If anyone is interested in assisting with the service, please place your name onto the sign-up sheet in Nelles Fellowship Hall.**

CtL Prayer List

New Requests in green

Special Intentions

Michael (son)
Donna (Doug's sister)

Doug & Nancy Besemer

Sophia Bradley (niece)

Sal Martello

Todd Kennedy (brother)

Mark Kennedy

Alexander Deleon (AF) (nephew)
Michael Naber Jr. (AF) (grandson)

Gerald & America Naber

Home Bound

Jean Bente

Health Issues

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pete Carpenter | |
| Keith Kittle | |
| Nancy Hales (Heart Issues) | |
| Brent Saunders | |
| Jason Wright | |
| Susie Bradstock (friend) | Dave & Gretchen Clark |
| John Anderson (brother-in-law) | Jerry Graunke |
| Erika (wife) | Roger Greaves |
| Jan Parilla (friend) | Tom & Luann Spraker |
| Bill and Patty Coulter (cousin) | Susan Farrington |
| Mike & Jackie Strosnider (friends) | |
| Susan & Scott Farrington | |
| Ken Mulzer (friend) | Bob & Dian Flach |
| Ron Flanders (brother) | Marilyn Flanders |
| Krystin Flanders | |
| Gene (son's father) | |
| Larry & Joyce Vetch (friends) | Keith & Kristy Hainy |
| Toni Lusk (friend) | |
| Jaren David Corral (friend's brother) | Mark & Valerie Kennedy |
| Michelle (friend) | |
| Brenda Schotter (niece) | Skip & Joan McGinnis |
| George (cousin) | |
| Bill (brother) | |
| Lyn | Dan & Diane Nelson's friends |
| Charles | |
| Jim Johnson (friend) | Brent & Pam Saunders |
| Shirley Prescott | |
| Helena Harja | |
| Paula (daughter) | Jan & Carla Skladany |

Cancer

Steve (brother)

Ted Pederson (brother-in-law)
Doug Besemer
Steve Boccieri (friend)
Pat Miller
Linda Lamphier (friend)
Pat Moran (friend)
LaRoy Luther (friend)
Mary Anderson (sister)
Dr. Ian Akiyama (friend)
Joe Marotta (friend)
Trevor, Patti, Charissa, Becky (friends)
Nicholas Teknos (family)
Debbie Chevalier (best friend)
Ellen Murphy (friend)
John White (friend)
Chuck Vandenberg (brother-in-law)
Mike Stevens (husband)
Marilyn Bennett
Larry Glenn (friend)

Tom McIntyre (friend)
Renaë Hampton (friend)

Karen (daughter)
Travis Brown (family)
Ruth Mueller (friend)

Paul Skoog (friend)
Tom (friend)
Eileen Hovey (friend)
Jamie Smith (friend)
Kirsten Wampler (Dan's sister)
Anna DeLeon (niece)
Steve Chaudet (friend)
Mike Shanklin (friend)
Amy Andrejko (Diane's cousin)
Joel Lassman (friend)

Jennie Lespron

Carol Albers

Doug & Nancy Bessemer
Pete Carpenter
Frances Emerson
Grace Farrington
Owen & Ruth Germundson
Jerry Graunke
Kennedys and Nelsons
Mark Kennedy
Susan Mayfield
Frank & Joan McGinnis
Pam McGinnis
Bill Murphy
Jan Murphy
Tom & Luann Spraker
Dorothy Stevens
Brent & Pam Saunders
Robin Coleman & Kay Krueger

Frances Emerson

Bob & Dian Flach

Dan & Diane Nelson

**Please contact the Church Office
to provide updates to the Prayer
List. Phone: 480-488-2081**



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*Susan Mayfield, Administrative Manager
Office (480) 488-2081, Ext. 10
admin@ctlcarefree.org*

*Jill Nelles-Voss, piano
Lincoln Wright, organ*

*Jane Chavers, Bell Choir Director
& Worship & Music Council Member*

Rodney Pitts, IT Specialist

Website: ctlcarefree.org

Your 2024 CtL Church Council

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