

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*Third Sunday in Advent*  
Pastor Christian Magnell  
December 15, 2024, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND GREETING

HYMN *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – Joy – Zephaniah 3:14 *“Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!”*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Father, it brings us joy to gather and worship

**in the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Lord God, you bring joy into our lives, but so often we chase other temporary and fleeting things. Guide us to consider our lives over the past week. *(time for reflection)*

**Father, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We’ve failed to love you, and we’ve failed to love others. We’ve walked away from joy and pursued all kinds of other things. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, forgive us, renews us, and lead us.**

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Every day is a new day. We can live into this promise with joy!

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S SERMON *“The Face of Joy”*

HYMN *“10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)”*

READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

*Sing, rejoice, exult. What a way to start this reading! God is in our midst; how can we not celebrate?*

14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. 16 On that day it shall be

said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. 17 The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. 18 I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you

will no longer suffer reproach. 19 Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. 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 in, at the time when I gather you together; 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.

READING: Philippians 4:4-7

*Do you see a theme here? Rejoice! Paul tells the Philippians that in the midst of fear and anxiety they should focus on rejoicing in the Lord. We don't ignore our problems; instead, we acknowledge them and give them to God. Then, rejoice!*

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION      God is good.      **All the time.**

GOSPEL: Luke 7:18-23

*How do you feel about Christ? The news he sends back to John in this Gospel should spark an outpouring of joy – blind healed, lame walk, good news preached to the poor. This is what the Gospel looks like!*

18 The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, 19 calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” 20 And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” 21 In that hour he healed many people of diseases

and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. 22 And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. 23 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION      All the time.      **God is good!**

HYMN      *“Joy to the World”*

SERMON – “Come to the Table for Joy”

PRAYER AT RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

PRAYER & BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace!

**Amen!**

CLOSING SONG

*“How Great Is Our God!”*

DISMISSAL

Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**



**Advent 3 – December 15, 2024**

***“And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” - Luke 7:23***

What do you do when you're offended? Shake your head? Tell others? Complain about it? Take action or sign a petition?

Being offended is not always a bad thing. After all, some things are right, and some things are wrong. We can offend people with words, deeds, and actions.

I remember when I was in high school - a new driver - and I pulled out in front of someone at a light who 100% had the right of way. I was in the wrong. I knew it. As the person sped up to confront me, I just looked out the window and mouthed the words “I'm sorry!” And gave a corresponding action. It calmed down the situation. I was wrong, he was right. I had reason to apologize.

But sometimes we get offended at the wrong things. And Jesus acknowledged that by saying, “Blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” You might ask: why would someone be offended by Jesus? It's easy. He speaks to right and wrong. He says we're sinners and that He can forgive us. He tells us that heaven isn't something we can work for but a gift from him. I could go on and on, but Jesus might “offend” our assumptions and traditions and “get in our way.”

That's part of the reason they crucified him. He claimed to be God in the flesh and promised to forgive sins.

Blessed are you. You're not offended by Christ but walk in his love and forgiveness!