

*Great Thanksgiving/Preface
Sanctus/Holy, Holy, Holy
*Words of Institution
***Lord's Prayer**
*Lamb of God

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Distribution

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and Fahlun Lutheran Church both offer the Lord's Supper to all the baptized that believe that Christ is present in the bread and the wine. If you wish to receive, please come forward as directed by ushers to receive the bread and the wine. After receiving the bread and wine, you may return to your seats. If you are unable to make it to the altar, let the ushers know and the pastor will be happy to bring communion to your seat. If you don't wish to receive communion, please keep your hands folded as you come forward and the pastor will be happy to offer an individual blessing for you.

*Thanksgiving Prayer

God of new beginnings, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Strengthen us for the journey as we wait and watch for the Lord's Messiah to break into our world in ever amazing ways.
Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (Green #60)

*Benediction and Dismissal

As you go from this place, remember that with God, nothing is impossible. May God the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go.
(Luke 1:37)

(Our Saviour's, *spoken*) Amen

(Fahlun, *sung*): Amen. Amen. Amen.

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Bells/Postlude

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DECEMBER 17, 2023

Our Saviour's-Fahlun Lutheran Parish—LCMC
PO Box 75, Nelson, MN 56355
Parish Number: 320-200-4260
Oursavioursfahlun@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/OurSavioursFahlunNelson
www.oursavioursfahlun.org
Pastor Jeremy Pedersen: 320-766-7844

Prelude/Bells
Welcome/Announcements
*Confession/Absolution

In this season of waiting and watching for the return of Christ, we are gathered together to worship in the name of the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

A voice cries in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a pathway for our God.” Let us come humbly before our Lord, asking for forgiveness and mercy for our sins, known and unknown. (Isaiah 40:3)

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

God of grace,

We confess that we have not been attentive to the urgent call to prepare for the coming of your Son. We have neglected to serve our neighbors, near and far. We have relied too much on our own strength rather than relying on your power, grace, and comfort in our lives. Grant us forgiveness and restore us to a right relationship through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The God who desires his people to depend upon him, offers us comfort in the knowledge that all our sins are forgiven. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever. Live joyfully in the grace and mercy of our Lord. (Isaiah 40:8)

Amen.

*Opening Hymn

Oh Come, All Ye Faithful (Green #45)

Advent Candle Lighting

Joy Candle

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, ... (Gal 5:21-26)

I bring you tidings of great joy. (Lk 2:8-10)

Therefore, this joy of mine is now complete. (Jn 3:25-30)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. (Philip 4:4-13)

But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings... (1 Peter 4:12-19)

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. (John 15:1-11)

We light the first candle in the expectation of hope in the One, Jesus Christ.

We light the second Advent Candle in preparation of the One to Come.

We light the third, pink candle in expected joy of the coming Son of God.

*Candle Hymn

We Light the Advent Candles (Insert, vs. 1-4)

*Kyrie/Hymn of Praise

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*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Hymn of the Day

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (Green #25)

***Apostle’s Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

And born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day, he rose again.

He ascended into heaven

And sits at the right hand of the Father

He will come again to judge the living and the dead

I believe in the Holy Spirit

The holy Christian church,

Communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And life everlasting.

Amen.

Review of Prayers of the People

Prayers of the People

(petition) Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

(final prayer) Into your hands, we commend for all whom we pray, trusting in you, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

Offering

Ushers collect the offering while special music is played.

*Offering Prayer

The congregation is invited to stand and sing as ushers bring the offering to the front:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free Spirit.

Let us pray together. Lord Jesus Christ,
give ear to our prayers,
and 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. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.
Share the peace by greeting those around you.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹“**The Spirit of the LORD** God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion — to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸“**For I the LORD** love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 126 (*read responsively*)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,

*Please stand (Page 3)

“The Lord has done great things for them.”

³ The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like streams in the Negeb!

⁵ Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

⁶ He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Preparation

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (Green #55)

Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)

²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

*Please stand (Page 4)