

**Living Faith Lutheran Church**  
**Order of Service**  
**December 13, 2020**  
**Third Sunday in Advent**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

**The Magnificat or Song of Mary**

**Luke 1:46b-55**

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.  
<sup>50</sup>You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
<sup>52</sup>casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.  
<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forbears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath – The Candle of Joy**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom  
and waters would break forth in the wilderness.  
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.  
Strengthen our hearts  
as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.  
May he give water to all who thirst,  
for he is our light and our salvation.  
Blessed be God forever.

**Amen**

### **Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

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

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Gathering Hymn # 251 – My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness**

- 1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;  
I sing my Savior's praise!  
You looked upon my lowliness,  
and I am full of grace.  
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age  
this blessing shall proclaim—  
great wonders you have done for me,  
and holy is your name.
  
- 2 To all who live in holy fear  
your mercy ever flows.  
With mighty arm you dash the proud,  
their scheming hearts expose.  
The ruthless you have cast aside,  
the lowly throned instead;  
the hungry filled with all good things,  
the rich sent off unfed.
  
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,  
your help is ever sure;  
the promise to our parents made  
their children will secure.  
Sing glory to the Holy One,  
give honor to the Word,  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,  
one God, by all adored.

## The Readings

### Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being 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 with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

**Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.**

## 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

**Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia.** I am sending my messenger before you, **who will prepare the way before you. Alleluia.** (Matt. 11:10)

## John 1:6-8, 19-28

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day #246 – Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding!

"Christ is near," we hear it say.

"Cast away the works of darkness,  
all you children of the day!"

2 Wakened by the solemn warning,

from earth's bondage let us rise;

Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,

shines upon the morning skies.

- 3 See the Lamb, so long expected,  
come with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all, to be forgiv'n;
- 4 So, when next he comes in glory  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
he will shield us with his mercy  
and with words of love draw near.
- 5 Honor, glory, might, and blessing  
to the Father and the Son  
with the everlasting Spirit  
while unending ages run!

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship, we especially name our Bishop Greg Mohr, our pastor Hergy, Glenn and Terry, Val, Lisa, Peter and Gordo and all others here who contribute to ensure the good news is proclaimed in this place and time. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. Especially comfort the family of Jonathan Mohr, brother of our Bishop Greg; Randi as she mourns her husband Karsten. Be with and comfort Terry's cousins Helen and Maggie as they live their last days here among us. Bring healing to Steinar's brother, Phil and his son Brett. Be with all who suffer and especially at this time those with COVID-19. Bring healing to all who are sick. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love (*especially Lucy, martyr of the church*). Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace – The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all!**

### **Musical Offering**

#### **Offering Prayer**

Generous God,  
you have created all that is,  
and you provide for us in every season.  
Bless all that we offer,  
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.  
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

**Amen.**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, in heaven; hallowed by your name;  
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

#### **Sending Hymn # 248 - People, Look East**

- 1 People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flow'r may flourish.

People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
him who brings new life to earth.  
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

### **Blessing**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✝ now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**