

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 12, 2021

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English Website: [elc-cl.faithlifesites.com](http://elc-cl.faithlifesites.com)

IN OUR PRAYERS we remember: Marcia Neelly and Beverly Baker

ORDER OF WORSHIP: Order of Service Hymns 367 814 383

### THIS WEEK AT PEACE AND ENGLISH:

#### TODAY 4:00 P.M. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT PEACE

Dec. 12 8:30 a.m. Worship at English

Dec. 12 10:15 a.m. Worship at Peace

Dec. 12 9:00 Sunday School

Dec. 14 Pastor's Circuit Meeting

Dec. 14 NO 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Dec. 14 6:30 p.m. Bible Study at English

Dec. 14 6:00 p.m. Secret Prayer Pal Party at Pizza Ranch

Dec. 15 9:30 a.m. Quilting

Dec. 15 Noon Bible Study

Dec. 15 2:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

Dec. 15 7:00 p.m. Advent Service at Peace

Dec. 24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25 10:15 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Dec. 26 8:30 a.m. Worship at English

Dec. 26 10:15 a.m. Worship at Peace

Dec. 26 & Jan. 2 No Sunday School classes

Dec. 26 No Adult Sunday School

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Our hymn of the day is, *Angels from the Realms of Glory*. This hymn invites all creation to come and worship Christ. There are the angels in stanza one, who proclaim messiah's birth. There are the shepherds in stanza two and the wise men in stanza three who leave their occupations to come and worship. Stanza four is our invitation, "Saints before the altar bending...come and worship." We are gathered this morning before the altar of God to come and worship Christ. Not only us, but all creation will someday join the angels and the shepherds, the wise men and the saints of today in praising "God the Father, Spirit, Son." Come and worship, come and worship; worship Christ the newborn king!

**A WORD:** Our epistle lesson encourages not to be anxious about anything, but to pray about everything. As we pray, God will guard our hearts with peace. We pray because life is not how it should be. We are afflicted by sin, threatened by God's judgement, and surrounded by enemies of body and soul. But God promises us in the Old Testament lesson to take away his

judgements through the forgiveness of sins. He promises to clear away our enemies of body and soul. He promises to quiet us by his love and gather us into our eternal home. As we wait to celebrate Christ's birth at Christmas, we are reminded that God has taken his judgement away from us. We are reminded that God has defeated sin, death, and Satan, our greatest enemies. We are reminded that Christ is coming soon to quiet us by his love and take us home. In every anxiety or fear, we pray to Christ. He has become our peace. Amen.

The Gospel lesson encourages us to receive Christ when he comes. We are to be like the tax collectors and other sinners who received the baptism of John (they repented) and when Christ came, they received salvation. We are not to be like the Pharisees. They rejected John (they refused to repent), and when Christ came, they rejected him as well. What they rejected was their own salvation. So repent. Receive Christ. God's purpose is your salvation. Amen.

**BIBLE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** Micah 5:2-5 Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45

**ABOUT THE BULLETIN COVER:** Many who saw Jesus stumbled over His humble appearance and lowly birth. But for those who heard the Word and saw with the eyes of faith, there was—and is—only blessing. So when John sent his disciples to ask Jesus if He was the Messiah, Jesus sent them back with their eyes and ears filled, having witnessed His healing and preaching. In the culmination of Jesus' ministry to sinners, He took up the greatest stumbling block of all in His cross. And yet, by God's grace and mercy, therein, we see only blessing through the forgiveness of our sins.

**CALLING ALL HYMNS:** We will be having a service of hymns and readings for Christmas Eve, just like last year. If you have a favorite Christmas hymn that you would like included in the service, write it down and put it in the hymn box on the back table. I will include as many hymns from the congregation as I can as part of the service.

**CARD SHOWER:** The Family of Beverly Baker has requested a card shower for Beverly's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Her address is 504 S. Randall Street, Rock Rapids, IA 51246.

**SECRET PALS:** The Secret Pal Christmas Party will be December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Rock Rapids Pizza Ranch. If you would like to join Secret Prayer Pals, please come and join us on the 14<sup>th</sup> or contact Krista Kroon at 507-920-9314 for more information.

**THIS MONTH** Daughters of Peace will collect drinks-fruit juice, vegetable juices, tea, water, Gatorade, tang, etc. for Atlas. Thank you all for your support in our monthly projects.

**USHERING TODAY is Team 6; Next Sunday is Team 1:** Michael Huygens, Keith Berg, Keith Lambert, Bob Iwen, Lucas Larson, Devin Olson, Justin Olson

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

**HYMN 367: ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*(Brief Silence for Inward Confession)*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

**INTROIT**

*Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philipians 4:4*

Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I will say, Rejoice.

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**  
**and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning,**  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I will say, Rejoice.

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** 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. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Zephaniah 3:14–20*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL**

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

**Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

Behold, your king is coming to you;

**righteous and having salvation.**

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

**EPISTLE**

*Philipians 4:4–7*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## VERSE

*Matthew 11:10b*

**Alleluia. Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 7:18–28*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*After the Reading*

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**HYMN 814: O BLESS THE LORD MY SOUL**

## SERMON

### OFFERTORY

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**C** 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.  
Amen.

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### BENEDICTION

202

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

### HYMN 383: A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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