

Sunday Morning Divine Worship

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 11, 2011

Joy in the Journey

MISSION STATEMENT: *Inspired by the grace of God, Christ Lutheran Church seeks to make Christ known and to exemplify God's compassionate love through worship, fellowship, and service.*

NOTICE: As a courtesy to other worshipers, and out of respect for The Lord, please silence all cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices, including children's toys. Thank you.

THE NEW LITTLE LAMBS' NURSERY is located at the bottom of stairs in the **RAINBOW ROOM**. A competent adult is there to provide care for infants, toddlers or **children of any age**. Parents may bring their child there at any time during the service, and pick them up at any time during or immediately following worship.

Prayer before worship: (Please pray silently): *O Heavenly Father, as we gather in Your house to receive the gift of forgiveness through Your Word, guard us from vain and distracting thoughts. Grant us pause from our busy lives. Open our hearts so that we are receptive to the proclamation of life with Your Son, and do not close our ears to the offering of salvation. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.* (Adapted from **Right Worship of God** prayer in *Portals of Prayer*, April through June, 2011)

PRELUDE..... "How Bright Appears the Morning Star"**Philip Nicolai**
"Good Christians, Now Rejoice, Rejoice"**Marcel Dupre**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITURGICAL SEASON: Advent is a time of preparing to celebrate Christ's First Coming (His incarnation/His birth) as we look forward to His Second and final coming (The End of Time/Judgment Day.) This year we are looking at Advent as a journey of our faith in Christ. Along the way we will explore some of the attributes of our faith: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love and how they differ in perception from the way the world sees them.

WORSHIP THEME: The third Sunday in Advent we light the pink candle to signify that we take time to stop and celebrate as we prepare in our faith journey with Christ. Joy is the genuine happiness we experience and express in our celebration as one of God's children. Joy is not happiness or pleasurable feeling for its own sake, but a rejoicing that starts with Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last.

GREETING

P: This is the Day the Lord has made.

C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: God's blessings on your worship of Him.

CALL TO WORSHIP HYMN..... "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"LSB803

INVOCATION

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O Most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for me, have mercy upon me and in his name grant me remission of all my sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in me true knowledge of You and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word to the end, that by Your grace I may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you of all your sins. To those who believe in His name, He gives them power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. So, if this was your sincere confession, then as a called and ordained Servant of the Word in Christ's Church and only by His authority, I, therefore,

forgive you of all of your sins in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INTROIT (Psalm 16:7-11 ESV)

(Introit is Latin for entrance. As the pastor enters "the Holy of Holies" Chancel area, he leads the congregation in adoration of the Lord through the responsive reading of one of the Psalms.)

P: I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

C: I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

P: Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices;

C: my flesh also dwells secure.

P: For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol,

C: or let your holy one see corruption.

P: You make known to me the path of life;

C: in your presence there is fullness of joy;

P: at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

C: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit

P: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, world without end.

C: Amen.

(The Hymn of Praise is eliminated during Advent to remind us that this is a season of preparation as we journey to the celebration at Christmas and the End of all time.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY/THE COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with you, His servant.

P: Let us pray: *(Moment of silence to reflect on worship theme)* God of true joy...

C: Prepare our faith journey to experience genuine joy with our Advent King

P: So that we can speak and live that joy for others to see and desire for their lives.

C: We pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

THE EPISTLE READING.....1 Thessalonians 5:12-24 ESV

In his final encouragement to the Thessalonian church, the Apostle Paul includes rejoicing among other good deeds. This is the text for this morning's sermon.

¹²We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, ¹³and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. ¹⁴And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. ¹⁵See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do 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. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION..... "Savior of the Nations, Come"....Chancel Choir

THE GOSPEL READING.....John 1:6-8, 19-28 ESV

P: The Holy Gospel according to Apostle, St. John, the 1st Chapter,

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

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. ⁸ He 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?" ²⁰ He 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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S LESSON: "What is a witness?" John 1:6-8

SERMON HYMN..... "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates".....LSB341 vv1-4

THE SERMON: "Rejoicing: joy in action" Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE FIRST ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED WITH LUTHER'S EXPLANATION

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

P: What does this mean?

Men: I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

Women: He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

Men: He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

Women: All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.

ALL: For all this, it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

P: This is most certainly true.

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY.....“Christmas Must Be Tonight”Disciples’ Band

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Bidding Prayer format.) (If it helps you to concentrate better, you may sit during the Prayers of the Church)

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
and for all people according to their needs:

P: Let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who taught us to pray:

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Amen

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

While the Communion Assistants are being served, please line up for Holy Communion.

HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION- Christ's real body is offered in the leavened bread (pita bread.) Christ's real blood is offered in both individual as well as common cups of wine (darker liquid) and grape juice (lighter liquid).

If you wish to come forward and not receive the Sacrament, please fold your hands to receive a blessing by God through the pastor.

(If you wish, please bring your bulletin and sing in line while waiting for Communion)

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION HYMN..... “A Baby Will Come”Bill Wolf

AFTER COMMUNION PRAYER: *(Please pray silently after receiving The Lord's Supper)*
Almighty God, I thank You for feeding me this life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, in order to preserve my forgiveness and salvation from You. Send Your Holy Spirit to help me live, by not sinning, and by serving You through helping others with my thoughts, words, and deeds. I pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: 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 His favor and give you His peace, both now and forevermore.

C: Amen

SENDING HYMN “People Look East”WOV626

P: Go in peace with real hope in your journey, living your faith in Christ by serving others.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Amen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/CONFO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS DISMISSED FIRST

POSTLUDE..... “Let us Adore”Disciples' Band

Worship Leader: Rev. Dan Eddy
Musician: Lambert Brandes, Mary Anne Hansen and the Disciples Band
Ushers: Bart Nuboer & Doug Wilkins
Greeters: The Zimonja Family
Lector: Mary Anne Hansen
Altar Guild: Annette & Marybeth Francis
Comm. Assts.: Joe Kelley & Milt Thompson
Acolyte: Abbey Slekis
Hostess: Paddy Buening
Flower Guild: Andrea Hunt
Nursery: Barbara Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***Welcome to all who are visiting today.** We are glad to have you with us. Please sign the guest register located in the Narthex. May your worship here be a blessing to you, as your presence is a blessing to us.

***We invite all baptized Christians** who trust in Christ's forgiving presence in the Sacrament to join us at the Altar for Holy Communion. Children not yet communing may come for a blessing.

***Please join us downstairs** in the fellowship hall for coffee and conversation after the service. The congregation has set up a rotation for hosting this event. Today's hostess is Paddy Buening.

***RECYCLE** your Sunday Bulletin! If you are not planning to keep your copy of today's bulletin, please deposit it in the recycling bin in the Narthex.

***Prayer Request:** If you would like to add a person or concern to the prayer list, please call Pastor Dan at (314) 775-7371 by Thursday noon for prayers Thursday evening and to include in the Sunday Bulletin.

***YOUTH QUAKE RETREAT!** The annual Boston Quake Zone is scheduled for January 27-29 in Newton, and is open to all confos and post-confos. This is a fun event not to be missed! Please see Nancy Zappolo for details.

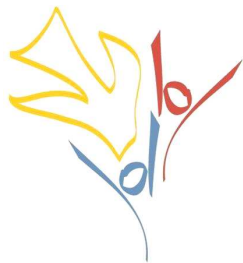
***"God's Creation Calendars" for sale!** The post-confos and confos are selling calendars to raise funds for our Compassion child, Yessica, in Bolivia, as well as for our annual Youth Quake retreat in January. Stop by our table to see the beautiful pictures and scripture verses contained in this calendar. They make wonderful gifts! We thank you for your support.

***Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship.** This year is very special in that Christmas Day falls on Sunday and we will be worshipping Jesus at 9:30 am. The worship theme will be different than Christmas Eve. It will be more casual and family oriented with a special children's message. There will be Holy Communion on Christmas Day (No Communion on Christmas Eve). The choir will be singing on Christmas Day as well.

***Bake Sale December 18th!** The confos/post confos attending Youth Quake are hosting a bake sale next Sunday during coffee hour. If you like to bake, please feel free to bring an item for the table. Thank you for your support!"

THIS WEEK AT CLC

- Today: December 11** Worship 9:30 am
Fellowship 10:30 am
Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:45 am
Christmas Tree decorating after Sunday School
Last Scrip Order before Christmas
Honey Baked Ham Sale
- Monday: 12** Choir Practice 7 pm
- Tuesday: 13** Council Mtg. 7:30 pm
- Wednesday: 14**
- Thursday: 15** Advent Prayer Service
- Friday: 16**
- Saturday: 17**
- Sunday: 18** Worship/Children's Pageant 9:30 am
Fellowship 10:30 am
Sunday School, Adult Bible Study 10:45 am
Honey Baked Ham Sale
Youth Group/Confo Bake Sale



December 11th – 3rd Sunday in Advent

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24: Watch and wait with joyful expectation! Our God of peace will be with us and keep us safe and blameless in body, soul and spirit as we wait for our Lord's glorious coming again to rescue His people—His stewards—from all the pain and tears that come with living in this fallen world. Live today as if our Lord is coming again tonight or tomorrow.