

# Third Sunday of Advent

## Rebuilding the Temple

We will always have to navigate a mixture of joy and sorrow, but because we know Jesus, we know that joy will always have the last word.



December 17, 2023 10:00am

*Worshiping and Growing Together in Christ  
Serving and Reaching Out Joyfully to All!*

Welcome! We're glad you're here!

*If you are a guest and are interested in knowing more about this community and the ministries that Holy Shepherd is engaged in, please fill out the **Welcome Card** located in the pew racks. Once filled out, please place the card either in the offering basket as you come forward to receive communion or at the information desk as you enter the narthex. Thank you and we look forward to getting to know you!*

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

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## Prelude

## Welcome & Announcements

## Call to Worship

We await the coming of Christ,  
**We will make our hearts holy temples to receive him.**  
We await the coming of Christ  
**With rejoicing, we wait.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.  
*Pause for silence and reflection.*

Ever-present God, **we come before you in need of grace. Too often our thoughts are judgmental and condemning of others. Too often our words are sarcastic or harsh as harmful as weapons. Too often our actions are motivated by selfishness and we do not recognize the hurt or need in others. Forgive us, O God, and draw us back into right relationship with you, our neighbors, and your creation.**

The promise is sure: Christ's advent is near, and in Christ we are forgiven all our sins. Know that you are a beloved child of God, and be strengthened in all goodness. Amen.

O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height.  
In ancient times you gave the law,  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

*Refrain*

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

## Greeting & Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Gracious God, **as creator of all that is, you lay the foundation of our faith. Help us to build on that foundation through your holy word and meal, this day and always. Amen.**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

*The king of Persia restores the people of Israel to their homeland and makes it possible for them to rebuild the center of their identity: the temple. But some people still remember “the good old days” and just can’t share in the community’s joy.*

## Invitation to the Word

Red ELW 528

**Come and fill our hearts with your joy.**  
**You alone, O Lord, are holy.**  
**Come and fill our hearts with your joy.**  
**Alleluia! Repeat**

## Scripture Reading

**Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13**

In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in order that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia so that he sent a herald throughout all his kingdom, and also in a written edict declared: <sup>24</sup>Thus says King Cyrus of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the

earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem in Judah. <sup>3</sup>Any of those among you who are of his people—may their God be with them! —are now permitted to go up to Jerusalem in Judah, and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel—he is the God who is in Jerusalem; <sup>4</sup>and let all survivors, in whatever place they reside, be assisted by the people of their place with silver and gold, with goods and with animals, besides freewill offerings for the house of God in Jerusalem.”

<sup>3</sup>When the seventh month came, and the Israelites were in the towns, the people gathered together in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>Then Jeshua son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel with his kin set out to build the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, as prescribed in the law of Moses the man of God. <sup>3</sup>They set up the altar on its foundation, because they were in dread of the neighboring peoples, and they offered burnt offerings upon it to the LORD, morning and evening. <sup>4</sup>And they kept the festival of booths, as prescribed, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number according to the ordinance, as required for each day. <sup>10</sup>When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the LORD with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; <sup>11</sup>and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.” And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. <sup>12</sup>But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, <sup>13</sup>so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

**Luke 2:25-28a**

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you. O Lord.**

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God.

The gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## + Children's Time +



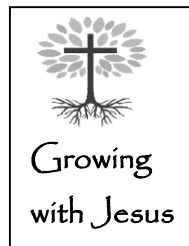
### Lighting of the Advent Candle

ELW 240 vs. 3

Light three candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the King of glory.

### Message

**Children's Church**  
*Children age 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> Gr.*  
*During message*



**Faith Talk**  
*Youth 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade*  
*After worship*

### Song

#### *The King Shall Come*

ELW 260 vs. 1,2,5

The King shall come when morning dawns  
and light triumphant breaks,  
when beauty gilds the eastern hills  
and life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child,  
to bear and fight and die,  
but crowned with glory like the sun  
that lights the morning sky.

The King shall come when morning dawns  
and light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:  
come quickly, King of kings.

# Proclamation of Faith

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**God – who created the light and separated it from the darkness**  
- **I Believe**

**Jesus – who is the light and shines in the darkness**  
**Yet is not overcome by it**  
- **I Believe**

**Spirit – who spreads the light into the darkness of our world**  
- **I Believe**

## Prayers of the People

In anticipation of the coming messiah, we pray for the church,  
the world, and all in need.

*Prayer response:*

God of Promise, **in mercy, hear our prayer.**

We lift all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, into your loving arms, trusting in  
your love and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## Sharing God's Peace

*During the virus season, we invite you to be mindful of each other's comfort level during the passing of the peace. Feel free to shake hands or give a hug but a wave or nod is a good option as well! Sanitizer is available in each pew.*

May the peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*



## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

## Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## Lord's Prayer

**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;  
and 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.**

## Invitation

Come feast at the table of life, where Jesus meets us in the bread and wine, and rejoices with us in his promise of everlasting life. All is prepared for you. Receive this gift of love.

## Options on how to receive Holy Communion

You may come forward and stand, starting at the center and filling in along the step. After you have received communion please exit by the side aisles and those waiting will then fill in the empty space. Bread (gluten-free) and wine or grape juice (center of the tray) will be given to you with the words spoken:

*“The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.”*

If you would like communion served in the pew, please signal to a pastor.

**You are invited...**

To bring an **offering** forward before or after worship or during Holy Communion.

The offering is gathered in front of the communion table where we are reminded of God's gifts given to us in Christ and our response to these gifts.

## Communion Songs

*Wait for the Lord*

ELW 262

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!  
(repeated numerous times)**

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**Come to Us**

Praise Team

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**Refrain (congregation)**  
**Come to us, O Lord of glory and shine in our hearts.**  
**Come to us, O Lord of glory and make us anew**  
**Lord we wait for You. Lord we wait for You**  
**Lord we wait for You. Come Lord of glory.**

## Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

God we rejoice in you no matter our circumstances. With generous hearts we offer what we can for the life of the world, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## Blessing

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## Sending Song

***Come and Set Us Free***

- Thomson

***Refrain***

***Come, come, Lord Jesus  
Come, come save your people.  
Come and set us free.***

**Awaken our hearts to the pow'r of your love.  
Awaken our hearts to your mercy.  
Free us, O Lord, from the power of sin.  
Set us free    *Refrain***

**Awaken our hearts to the pow'r of your truth.  
Awaken our hearts to your justice.  
Teach us and guide us for you are the way.  
Set us free    *Refrain***

**Awaken our hearts to your holy ways.  
Awaken our hearts to forgiveness.  
Lead us O Lord, to the light of your truth.  
Set us free    *Refrain***

## Sending

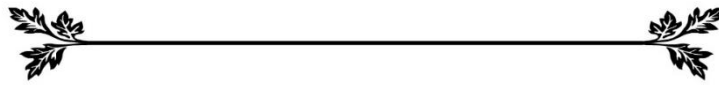
Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude



Your Advent journey continues as you leave worship today!

**Learn how you can join together with others in serving our neighbors near and far by visiting a tree in the narthex.**



## Advent Prayer Room

During the season of Advent, you are invited to learn & experience praying silently with our whole selves and as a community as we grow in our relationship with God. The library will be transformed into a prayer room where we you can rest in body, mind & spirit.

*Come . . . be still.*

*The Prayer Room is available before & after each service.  
Location: Library, west of the information center.*

### Narrative Lectionary Worship Resources



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## Participants

- Pastors: Julie Brooks & Kim Gonia
- Organist/Pianist: Jordan Ortman
- Reader: Matt Mohrbacher
- Communion Assistants: Becca & Margaret Mohrbacher
- Greeters: Bruce & Bong Hansen
- Usher: Don Threlkeld
- Altar Guild: Susie DiPaolo
- Faith Talk: Pat Mohrbacher
- Children's Church: Margaret Mohrbacher
- Technology: Michael Boehm, Mark Lee
- Fellowship Hosts: Bonnie & Mel Yockstick

### Song Resource Key

**ELW:** *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal*

**ACS:** *All Creation Sings*

**HSSB:** *Holy Shepherd Songbook*

**WOV:** *With One Voice*

If you would like to give an offering to support the ministries of Holy Shepherd, please feel free to use the PayPal link as an option.



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## + WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES +

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- **THANK YOU** for being considerate of disabled worshippers and their families. Please leave the pew cuts and several adjoining seats available for those with walkers, wheelchairs, or electric carts and their families.
  - **HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES (4 devices available)** are located at the sound booth located in the back of the sanctuary on the east side.
  - **PRAYER STATION** is available **in the back of the sanctuary and library** before and after worship for candle-lighting.
  - **FELLOWSHIP:** Once service has concluded, if you would like to greet one another, the narthex, fellowship hall, library and columbarium are available for fellowship.
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### OFFERING

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If you would like to make a donation to the mission of Holy Shepherd, which will be used to serve the community, neighborhood and the world, there is an offering plate located at the front of the sanctuary. Please make checks payable to:  
Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church. *Thank you.*

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### NURSERY

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The nursery (un-staffed) will be available to use for your family, if you need to leave the service. The library and Fellowship Hall are also available.

## Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church

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[www.holyshepherd.com](http://www.holyshepherd.com)