

Mon Zephaniah 3:14-20 Judah (the South) was sliding downhill morally, and that bothered God enough to engineer a novel way to rescue them. First, give them a good taste of His wrath—to humble them—and then display His generous kindness toward them (14-15), giving them reason to relax (16-17); **then** gather them home (18-20). History repeats itself because humans keep tussling with God for control of the steering wheel.

Tues Luke 3:7-18 Baptizer John told people how God wanted them to behave (16). **If** their hearts were in it, they could be humanitarian (11), generous (12-13), and law-abiding (14). More importantly, **if** they took to heart John's message about Messiah, He would cleanse them (15-16) and bring them home at harvest time—the final Advent/Judgment Day (17).

Wed Philippians 4:4-7 We have good reason to *rejoice* all the time, for we are stocked with God's gracious gentleness (5), unfazed amid this world's craziness (6), and proactive in prayer (6). Bottom line: Since we are straight with God via Christ Jesus, we can face life with calmness and strength (7).

Thurs Zephaniah 3:8-13 is prelude to Monday's Bible selection, and lest we leave this Word of God in the dust of yesteryear—note that God has always had serious business with humanity (8). Serious because we always need spiritual revival (9) of heart and soul (10-12). How else could sinners—or a degenerate nation—be transformed to *speak no lies, no deceitful tongue be found in their mouth, and no one shall make them afraid* (13)? God grant it!

Fri Mark 6:14-29 The Herodian dynasty lasted for four generations, and this pervert had a split personality; he seemed open to both good and evil. We would like to ignore him, but God has a lesson embedded in the account: Evil people will murder God's messengers/missionaries prior to His Advent. Herod allowed lust and pride to overpower his weak conscience (20), and John became a martyr. This scenario is being replayed in our world today.

Sat Philippians 4:2-3 As we celebrate Jesus' first Advent, we are looking forward to His Advent return – and for good reason, of course. Perhaps one reason easily passed over is that in heaven we shall meet people we have never known on Earth. People like Euodia, Syntyche, Clement, and others whose names are written in the Book of Life. We know the names of a handful more—as recorded in the ledger of Romans 16:1-16, Colossians 4:7-17, 2 Timothy 4:19-21, Titus 3:12-13, etc. Note: Apostle Paul listed these names very close to the black-list of those who hindered the Advent messengers and/or should be avoided because they do not serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

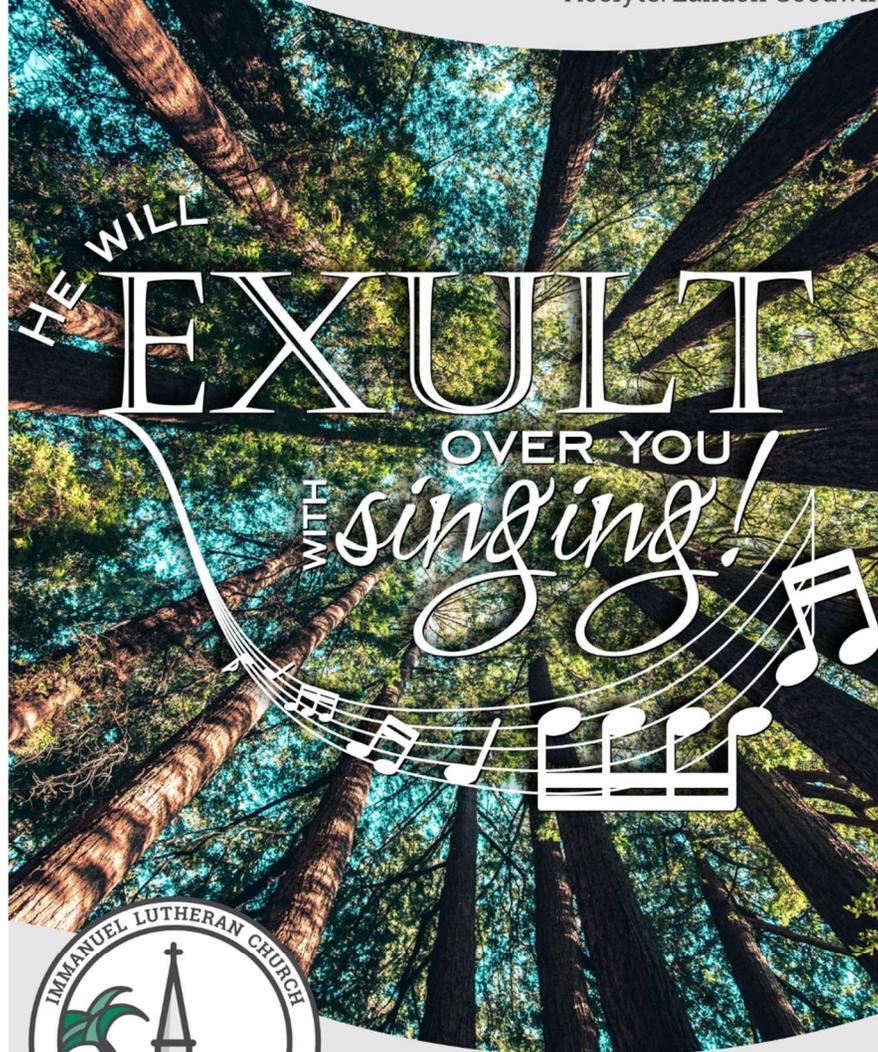
December 12, 2021

Advent 3

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Paul Seger

Acolyte: Landon Goodwin



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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 85:7-13

⁷ Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. ⁸ Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly. ⁹ Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. ¹¹ Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. ¹² Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. ¹³ Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

Hymn: TLH #60

“Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding”

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **♪ A - - - men.**

CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION:

P Pastor

C Congregation

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. 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 Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

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. Wherefore 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 hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C **♪ A - - - men.**

Christmas Eve Preparations The adult choir will be meeting after church to practice songs for the upcoming Christmas Eve service. Also, candy is being collected for Christmas Eve goodie bags for the children. If you are able to donate candy or money for this, please speak with Teresa.

Midweek Advent Services will conclude this Wednesday evening. Yet next week, we have opportunity to gather Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to celebrate our Savior's birth for us!

Immanuel Lutheran College Christmas Concert A choral service featuring the choirs of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be live-streamed online Friday, December 17, 2021 at 7:30 pm Central Standard Time from Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. To watch, go to www.eauclairemessiah.com and click on the "Live Stream" button (lower left). If you miss the live stream, a replay will be available to view for one week following the concert. This year's theme is *The Martin Luther Christmas Book* and will feature songs of the season along with devotional readings selected from Luther's Christmas sermons.

CLC Call News Teacher Ross Kok of Holy Cross Lutheran School, Phoenix, AZ, has **received** the call to be the upper grade of Grace Lutheran School, Valentine, NE. + Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD, **has been called** to Ascension Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA. + Pastor Sam Rodebaugh of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, Florida, is **still considering** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO.

Shut-in/Encouragement List **Patti Meno** continues to receive regular dialysis and is awaiting a kidney transplant. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound. **Greg Tincer** is recovering from his recent surgeries at home and receiving frequent therapy. **Shirley Rosenberry** is struggling with severe knee pain which has greatly limited her mobility. **Paulette Galstad** is doing much better recently with the back pains that have hampered her mobility for so long. **Liz Hartmann** had two surgeries this past week in Miami for the tumor behind her eye, early reports are of a successful surgery. She is currently resting in the home of one of her daughters.

Last Week: WH – 43 | Wednesday – 17 **Total Offering = \$1,533.75**
General = \$1,173.75 | Property Improvement = \$110 | KINSHIP = \$150
CLC Student Aid Fund = \$50 | ILC Scholarship = \$50

Cleaner (12/19): Naumann | **Acolyte (12/20):** Grant Bernthal

- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee- Gladly, freely, of Thine own; With the sunshine of Thy goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by Thee, at length believe That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

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 His peace. Amen, amen, a – men.

✠ Announcements ✠

Welcome! Be sure to welcome Joe and Gloria Weller into our church family here at Immanuel, and introduce yourselves to them if you haven't gotten the chance to do so yet! It's been a joy to get to know them better over the past several months, and I have no doubt they will be a great blessing to our congregation, just as we are able to be for them! Praise God for bringing like-minded Christians together in fellowship!

Pastoral Call The Lord has given me the opportunity to carefully consider two different calls. Last Sunday afternoon, I received the call from Faith Lutheran Church in Manchester, MO, to serve the Lord as their pastor. I pray for the Lord's guidance as to where the gifts I have been given can best be used. I also would ask that you all pray that the Lord would clearly give me an answer where I can best serve Him and His people. My hope and prayer is that this call will give each of us the opportunity to reflect on the Lord's use of us in His kingdom. I encourage any of your thoughts and comments as I deliberate this call. May the Lord's will be done.

- Dec. 12: Orlando Service 8a
Dec. 12: Bible Class & SS 9:15a
Dec. 15: Midweek Adv. 6:30p
Dec. 19: Bible Class & SS 9:15a
Dec. 19: Board of Education
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve 7p
Dec. 25: Christmas Day 10:15a
Dec. 26: Orlando Service 8a
Jan. 16: Council & Trustees
Feb. 6: Annual Voters' Mtg.

INTROIT

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26

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

Musical score for the Introit with lyrics: Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 11:10

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

Musical score for the Verse of the Day with lyrics: Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST

TLH #237:1

☞ *♩* All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!

☞ 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.

☞ *♩* A - - - men.

EPISTLE LESSON – Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL LESSON – Luke 7:18-25 The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰ And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹ In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²² And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ²⁴ When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before

you." ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."



Reception into Membership

Joe and Gloria Weller



CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn: TLH #528:1-3, 5-6

"If God Himself Be For Me"

SERMON – Zephaniah 3:14-20 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

Is This Joy "Too Good to Be True"?

- I. Joy *only* in the absence of sadness is
- II. Joy that *sustains* us in sadness is not

OFFERTORY

☞ *♩* 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.