



# The Third Sunday of Advent

St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church

December 13, 2020

## The Word of God

**Officiant** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**People** Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

**Officiant** Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

**Officiant** Lord, open our lips.

**People** And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!  
Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

## Song of Praise

*Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending*

*Words: John Wesley*

*Music: Darwin Jordan*

Lo he comes with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain  
Thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty  
Those who set at naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing shall the true Messiah see

Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears  
Cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers  
With what rapture, with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars

Yea, amen! Let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne  
Savior, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for thine own  
O come quickly, O come quickly! Alleluia! Come, Lord come!

## **Psalm**

*Psalm 126*

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## **Song in Response**

*We Will Feast in the House of Zion*  
*Sandra McCracken & Joshua Moore*

Chorus:  
We will feast in the house of Zion, we will sing with our hearts restored  
He has done great things, we will say together  
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire, he is the Lord our God  
We are not consumed by the flood

Upheld, protected, gathered up

In the dark of night before the dawn, my soul be not afraid  
For the promised morning, O how long  
O God of Jacob be my strength

Every vow we've broken and betrayed, you are the faithful one  
And from the garden to the grave  
Bind us together, bring shalom

## The First Reading

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

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; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

*After the Reading, the Reader says* The Word of the Lord

**People**            **Thanks be to God**

## The Second Reading

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

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. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*After the Reading, the Reader says* The Word of the Lord

People            Thanks be to God

## Sequence Hymn

*O Come O Come Emmanuel*  
*Traditional*

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel

O come thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel

O come, desire of nations bind in one the hearts of all mankind  
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and by thyself our King of Peace  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel

## The Gospel Reading

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

*Before proclaiming the Gospel, the Officiant says*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People            Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 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. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*After the Gospel, the Officiant says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

People            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## The Apostles' Creed

All            I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
                  creator of heaven and earth  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the Virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

**Officiant** The Lord be with you.  
**People** And also with you.  
**Officiant** Let us pray.

**All** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be 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 for ever. Amen.

**Officiant** Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
**People** And grant us your salvation.  
**Officiant** Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**People** Let your people sing with joy.  
**Officiant** Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**People** For only in you can we live in safety.  
**Officiant** Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**People** And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
**Officiant** Let your way be known upon the earth;  
**People** Your saving health among all nations.  
**Officiant** Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**People** Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
**Officiant** Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**People** And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

**Officiant** Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

## **Anthem**

*Never Walk Alone*  
*Andrew Duncalfe*

We will never walk alone, though the winding road is empty  
All the saints who went before will cheer us on our way  
So let us fix our eyes on Jesus and run the race laid out before us  
Following the footsteps of the cloud of witnesses

Your father with his quiet smile  
Showed you how to love the crowd  
He set you on your way, and you follow his example  
He's passed on now, but he'd be so proud... and

You will never walk alone, though the stony road is empty  
All the saints who went before will cheer you on your way  
So fix your eyes on Jesus and run the race laid out before you  
Following the footsteps of the cloud of witnesses

Your mother's strong determination  
Taught you how to see things through  
She set you on your way, and you follow her example  
She's passed on now, but she'd be so proud... and

You will never walk alone, though the dusty trail is empty  
All the saints who went before will cheer you on your way  
So fix your eyes on Jesus and run the race laid out before you  
Following the footsteps of the cloud of witnesses

We remember all the saints whose firm belief gained them approval  
The giants of our faith, and those with mustard seeds  
Called home without them seeing the fulfillment of the promise  
God's kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven  
We've got so much work to do, but this I know... that

We will never walk alone, though the narrow path is empty  
All the saints who went before will cheer us on our way  
So let us fix our eyes on Jesus and run the race laid out before us  
Following the footsteps of the cloud of witnesses

**All** Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,

and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. *Amen.*

*A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

**All** Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

**Officiant** Let us bless the Lord.

**People** Thanks be to God.

**Officiant** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*

## Announcements

### Birthdays this month

1st: Lincoln Randell  
 2nd: Susan Schug  
 6th: Janet Whetzel  
 14th: Becky Supercinski  
 19th: Diana Duesterhoft  
 21st: Ron Raif  
 26th: Jeff Richardson  
 27th: Don King  
 30th: Sunni Spraggins  
 31st: John Dawes

### Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24th, 6:00 PM

### Longview Community Ministries

They are the principal organization in Longview that helps people with all sorts of emergency services, including food. They have asked us to help by donating canned fruits and vegetables during this season when food bank donations are down, and the need for services has increased. We will have a basket in the Narthex for ongoing donations. Please donate if you are able.

### Ornament Exchange

**NEXT Sunday, December 20th**, Bring a wrapped ornament, costing no more than \$5.00. Place on the table in the Narthex. Following the service, please take one on your way out. Bring as many as you want, but only as many as you bring. Please be aware we cannot socialize, but we can exchange the ornaments. Options: Include a note, poem, or verse inside, expressing how much the Christmas season means to you and hopes for the recipient.

### Poinsettia Dedications

If you would like to provide a Poinsettia for the Sanctuary, please fill out the form located in the narthex and place in the offering plate. Suggested donation: \$20.00 per Poinsettia. Please indicate "Poinsettia" on your check.

## This Sunday's Servers

**Danny's Team:** Mary Lynn Dawes  
**Greeter:** Susan Kuhlman  
**Lector:** Harrison Brown  
**Ushers:** Bryan White  
**Vestry People:** Laura Buckner, David Brown  
**Worship Tech:** Laura Buckner

## Prayer Requests

### Healing For:

- Ray
- Devin
- Meg
- Aaron & Roni
- Jo Lee
- Lorraine
- Pete & Margie

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering. Or, send an email with your request to: [prayer@smaalongview.org](mailto:prayer@smaalongview.org)

**\*\* Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. \*\***

## Stewardship Update

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	ABOVE/BELOW
11/15/20	\$2,131	\$3,065	-\$934
11/22/20	\$5,001	\$3,065	\$1,936
11/29/20	\$2,361	\$3,065	-\$704
12/06/20	\$1,216	\$3,065	-\$1,849
<b>YTD TOTALS</b>	<b>\$120,808</b>	<b>\$150,177</b>	<b>-\$29,369</b>

## Next Sunday's Servers (12/20)

**Danny's Team:** Mary Lynn Dawes  
**Greeter:** David Brown  
**Lector:** David Brown  
**Ushers:** Jerry Ritchie  
**Vestry People:** Andrew Sanders, Need a person  
**Worship Tech:** Jessica Sanders

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