

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

The First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Canticle 15

The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and
holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.*

The Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Before proclaiming the Gospel, the Priest says

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Announcements

Birthdays this month

1st: Lincoln Randell
 2nd: Susan Schug
 6th: Gloria Akinson
 6th: Janet Sue Whetzel
 14th: Becky Supercinski
 21st: Ron Raif
 26th: Jeff Richardson
 27th: Don King
 28th: Kayla Smith
 30th: Sunni Spraggins
 31st: John Dawes

Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24th at 6:00 PM

Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 AM

Christmas Cookie Exchange

NEXT Sunday, December 18th, after the service
 Bake just one kind of cookie or candy. Package into bags of six, enough for each participant. Ruby Hahne will call those that sign up after church on December 11th to let them know how many bags of 6 to bring.
 Sign up form located in the narthex.

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

Inquirer's Class

Bishop Fisher will visit us soon in 2023.
 In preparation for that, if you are interested in confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation please contact Mother Tracey by email or text:
mothertracey@smaalongview.org
 903.399.8334

TODAY Sunday, December 11th, after the service

Family tree decorating party, bring a family ornament

THIS Saturday, December 17th, 4-6 PM

Church Christmas Party at Bryan & Charlyne White's Home. Bring Hors D'oeuvres

NEXT Sunday, December 18th

DOK Christmas lunch, after the church service, place TBD

This Sunday's Servers

Acolytes: Diane Buffington
Cameras & Streaming: Robert Brown
Danny's Team: Melinda Smith
Eucharistic Ministers: Laura Buckner
Greeter: Susan Kuhlman
Lector: Helen Daniel
Nursery Helper: Marie Tucker
Ushers: Bryan White
Vestry People: Susan Kuhlman, Susan Schug
Worship Tech: Amy Brown

Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- Marsha Magee
- Courtney Kale
- Jeff Hahne
- Lorraine, Pete and Margie Litterski

Comfort for:

- Frank Rauch's family
- Regina Nesbitt's family
- Carolyn Deakins, Read and Burlingame families

Guidance, Healing and Strength for:

- Will & Erin Ramey

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

**** 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
11/13/22	\$8,105	\$2,955	\$5,150
11/20/22	\$2,144	\$2,955	-\$811
11/27/22	\$3,512	\$2,955	\$557
12/04/22	\$3,965	\$2,555	\$1,010
YTD TOTALS	\$132,524	\$144,804	-\$12,280

NEXT Sunday's Servers (12/18)

Acolytes: Norah Lindsey Jackson
Cameras & Streaming: Michael Greathouse
Danny's Team: Frank Supercinski
Eucharistic Ministers: David Brown
Greeter: Bryan White
Lector: Roxanne Brink
Nursery Helper: Helen Daniel
Ushers: Donna Richardson
Vestry People: David Brown, Amy Brown
Worship Tech: Melinda Smith

St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church

The Rev. Tracey F. Carroll, TSSF

Email: mothertracey@smaalongview.org

Church Website: smaalongview.org

Phone: (903) 759-2051