

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

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.

Canticle 15

The Song of Mary, 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

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.

The Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Announcements

Birthdays this month

1st: Laura Newsom
 1st: Lincoln Randell
 2nd: Connie Fedrizzi
 2nd: Susan Schug
 6th: Gloria Akinson
 6th: Janet Sue Whetzel
 7th: Isabella Newsom
 14th: Becky Supercinski
 21st: Ron Raif
 26th: Jeff Richardson
 27th: Don King
 28th: Kayla Smith
 31st: John Dawes

This Week at SMAA

Sunday, December 24, 2023

10:00 am Holy Eucharist
 11:30 am Decorate the church after the service
 5:45 pm Christmas Eve Evening Service

LAST SUNDAY: 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

TODAY: Sunday, December 17th, after the service
 Family tree decorating party, bring a family ornament.

TODAY: Sunday, December 17th, 4-8PM
 Church Christmas Party at Bryan & Charlyne White's Home. Bring Hors D'oeuvres

NEXT: Sunday, December 24th, after the service
 Church decorating party, preparing the church for the Christmas Eve evening service. Need volunteers to help.

NEXT: Sunday, December 24th, Evening service
 Christmas Carols will begin at **5:45 PM** and service will begin at **6:00 PM**.

NEXT Sunday's Servers (12/24)

Acolytes: Joshua Martinez
Cameras & Streaming: Michael Greathouse
Danny's Team: Mary Lynn Dawes
Eucharistic Ministers: Amy Brown
Greeter: Frank Supercinski
Lector: David Brown
Nursery Helper: Becky Supercinski
Ushers: Joe Frank Brown
Vestry People: Laura Buckner, Tommy Smith
Worship Tech: Melinda Smith

Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- Andrew McWhorter
- Bill Magee
- The Akinson & Brown Families
- Lorraine, Pete and Margie Litterski

Bereavement For:

- Ray Mastrogiacomo Family

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 |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 11/19/23 | \$2,399 | \$2,939 | -\$540 |
| 11/26/23 | \$1,237 | \$2,939 | -\$1,702 |
| 12/03/23 | \$5,125 | \$2,939 | \$2,186 |
| 12/10/23 | \$1,118 | \$2,939 | -\$1,821 |
| YTD TOTALS | \$165,202 | \$146,943 | \$18,259 |

Christmas Eve Evening Servers (12/24)

Acolytes: Jonathan Roberts, Norah Lindsey, Joshua Martinez
Cameras & Streaming: Robert Brown
Danny's Team: Laura Buckner
Eucharistic Ministers: Frank & Becky Supercinski
Greeter: Catherine White
Lector: Susan Brown
Ushers: Jerry Ritchie
Vestry People: Susan Schug, Samantha Rauch
Worship Tech: Amy Brown

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