

Third Sunday in Advent

THEME: We rejoice to share the good news of God's saving love in Jesus.

HYMN 1: "The Advent of Our King"

SERVICE OF THE WORD — Page 38

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

SOLO by Gary Stieg: "Mary Did You Know?"

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-3, 10&11

Jesus, as he taught in the Nazareth synagogue, applied these verses to himself. As our Savior, he proclaims the year of the Lord's favor. He brings freedom and happiness to the Church and leads her back to a rightful priesthood in the new heavenly Zion.

63:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion — to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

PSALM 71 (p.92) (sung in unison)

Christ's people suffer the consequences of sin, but their relationship with God gives them hope for the future. That hope moves God's people to overflow with the gospel message.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul tells us how God wants us to live — joyfully, thankfully, prayerfully, and spiritually — as we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

5:16 Be joyful always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire; 20 do not treat prophecies with contempt. 21 Test everything. Hold on to the good. 22 Avoid every kind of evil. 23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

CHOIR: "Angels' Carol"

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28 (Please Stand)

John the Baptist confesses, "I am not the Christ. I am the voice of one calling in the desert." When the crowds asked how he had the authority to baptize, John answered, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one . . . the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." Like John, our role as Christians is to prepare the way for the Lord and to point to him, not to ourselves.

1:6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."

21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." 22 Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent 25 questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. 27 He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

HYMN 16: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

SERMON THEME: So . . . What Were You Expecting?

1. From the preacher. 2. From your Savior

APOSTLES' CREED — Page 41

OFFERING HYMN 485 Verses 1 & 2: "We Give Thee but Thine Own" (Please Stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN 6: "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

BENEDICTION

HYMN 9: "Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes"

SILENT PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Advent

Serving Us Today ~ December 17, 2017

Organist: Marge Schroeder

Ushers: Karl Luft, Dave Leatherman, Marty Waite & Tom Gregory

Altar Guild: Jan Nelson, Judy Zarter and Jan Zellmer



The Altar Flowers Adorning the altar this morning have been provided by Tim & Kim Krause in honor of their 26th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Friendly Reminder: For security purposes, our ushers will be locking the doors of our church when the chimes start to begin our worship service. Any late comers will need to come to the front door so the ushers can let you in.

Christmas Poinsettias: Sign-up sheets are in our Fellowship Hall for anyone wishing to sponsor a plant this Christmas Season. Deadline for sign-up is *today*.

Advent Envelopes: Additional Advent offering envelopes are available in the entranceway of our church. Please remember to write your name or envelope number on the front so you can be appropriately credited. Thank you!


Communion Change: Our second communion Sunday for December will be DECEMBER 31, not December 24. Altar team members scheduled are Jan Nelson, Judy Zarter and Jan Zellmer and communion assistant scheduled is Marty Waite. Please mark your calendars accordingly and talk with Pastor if this change causes a conflict. Thank you.

2018 Offering Envelopes are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please do not begin using 2018 envelopes until after the new year as your number probably has changed.

Our Sunday School will hold one Christmas practice on Saturday December 23rd from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Their Christmas party will take place after practice from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Each child should bring a \$5 gift for exchange.

Keep in Your Prayers: Joan Radtke as her cancer treatments continue and Betty Maitland who remains at Omro Care.

Join us for Christmas Worship: Sunday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m. and Monday, December 25th at 9:00 a.m.

| OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GIFTS | | THIS WEEK AT IMMANUEL | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Needed per week | \$3,579.00 | Office Hours | Mon, Tue., & Wed. 8:00 a.m. - Noon |
| Received 12-10-17 | \$3,361.00 | Tuesday | 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Class |
| Received Advent 12-06-17 | \$433.00 | Wednesday | 4:00 p.m. Confirmation Class |
| Needed to date | \$178,950.00 | Wednesday | 6:30 p.m. Advent Service |
| Received to date | \$162,439.55 | Wednesday | 7:30 p.m. Choir Practice |
| Improvement Fund Rec'd to date | \$14,955.80 | Thursday | Dartball I1@MN M3@I2 |
| Grand Total Received to date | \$177,395.35 | Saturday | 10:00 a.m. SS Christmas Practice & Party |
| Worship Attendance 12-10-17 | 110 | Sunday | 9:00 a.m. Worship Service |
| Sunday School Attendance 12-10 | 9 | Sunday | 10:00 a.m. Sunday School |
| GriefShare Attendance 12-11-17 | 12 | Sunday | 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service |
| Bible Class Attendance 12-12-17 | 14 | Monday | 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service |
| Advent Service 12-13-17 | 44 |  | |