

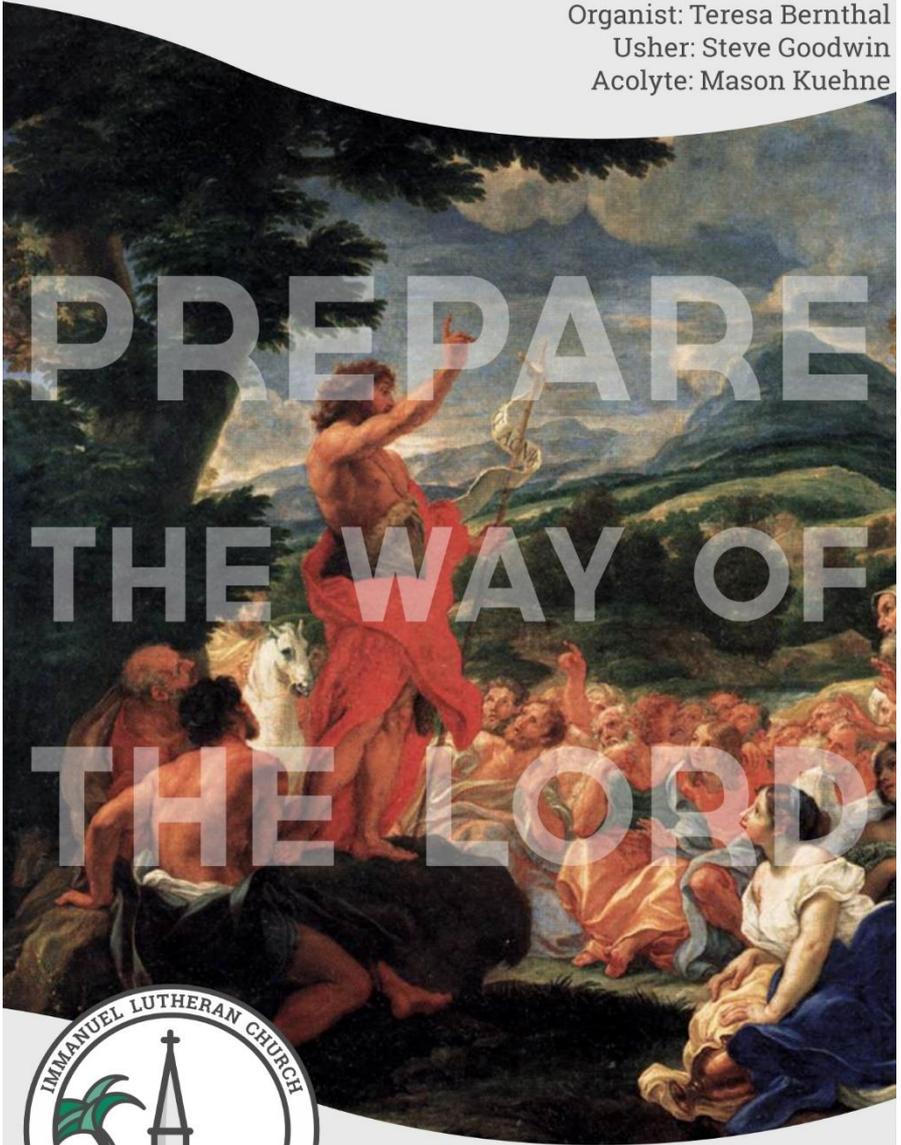
December 15, 2019

Advent 3

Organist: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Steve Goodwin

Acolyte: Mason Kuehne



1449 34th St. NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881
winterhavenlutheran.org

Sam Rodebaugh, Pastor (414) 534-7279
Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145
Megan Goodwin, Teacher (651) 795-9799

PRE-SERVICE MEDITATION

Psalm 119:65-77

⁶⁵ You have dealt well with your servant, O LORD, according to your word. ⁶⁶ Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments. ⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word. ⁶⁸ You are good and do good; teach me your statutes. ⁶⁹ The insolent smear me with lies, but with my whole heart I keep your precepts; ⁷⁰ their heart is unfeeling like fat, but I delight in your law. ⁷¹ It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes. ⁷² The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces. ⁷³ Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn your commandments. ⁷⁴ Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice, because I have hoped in your word. ⁷⁵ I know, O LORD, that your rules are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. ⁷⁶ Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant. ⁷⁷ Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight.

✠ Order of Divine Worship ✠

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: TLH #279

"Today Thy Mercy Calls Us"

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

C *♩* A - - - men.

P Pastor

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

C Congregation

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

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.

INTROIT

PS. 105:4-8; Is. 40:3

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

P In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

C Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually!

P Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,

C O offspring of Abraham, His servant, children of Jacob, His chosen!

P He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth.

C He remembers His covenant forever, the Word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.

GLORIA PATRI

Latin for "Glory be to the Father"

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is presented in four systems. The first system consists of a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line begins with a C-clef and contains the lyrics: "Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics: "as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men." and the piano accompaniment. The score concludes with a final double bar line.

VERSE OF THE DAY*Luke 3:4b, 6*

- P** Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

THE KYRIE*Latin for "O Lord"*

C 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*

- C** ♪ 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!
- P** Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** ♪ A - - - men.

EPISTLE READING – 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who

will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

GOSPEL READING – Luke 3:1-6 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³ And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴ As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"



CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian faith as taught by the Apostles.

- 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.**

SERMON – Malachi 3:1-4 "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Christ Prepares You for His Coming

Preaching His Word to < Make our hearts His temple
Keep our hearts clutter free

OFFERTORY

In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.

C **♪ 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.**

HYMN: TLH #66 "Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

- OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –

Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:

OFFERING HYMN: TLH #441:1 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

C **♪ We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

PRAYER, LORD'S PRAYER, and BENEDICTION

P 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.

C **♪ Amen, amen, a – men.**

HYMN: WS #701 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

✝ Announcements ✝

Advent Continues –

Midweek Advent services continue this Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. For the three Wednesdays between December 4 and 18, we will be focusing on the theme “Away in a Manger.” Advent is a season of preparation for the Savior to come, and there is no better way to prepare for the Savior’s birth than gathering together with fellow believers. If you have

never attended a midweek Advent or Lenten service before, I would strongly encourage you to start now. Please take time out of your evenings and join us this Wednesday!

Christmas Eve Goodie Bags On Christmas Eve, we will be handing out bags of treats to the children of the congregation. If you are able, please bring candy or peanuts to church by Sunday, December 15, so that they bags can be filled in time. If you have any questions, please speak to Christy Kuehne. Thank you!

Poinsettia Sign-up is in the back of church. Flowers this year will be \$10. Please sign up for a flower to help decorate the sanctuary this Christmas season! **Additionally**, the Ladies of Immanuel are collecting money to help a family in need this Christmas season. If you can, please donate \$10 for this. All payments can be given to Teresa Bernthal.

Saint Called Home - on the afternoon of December 11, at the Care Partners facility in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the Lord in His mercy received Don Skinner to Himself in heaven. Don and Phyllis had been dorm parents at ILC for many years. Don's victory service will be held at Messiah, Eau Claire on Friday, December 20. Correspondence may be addressed to: Phyllis Skinner, 4115 Jeffers Road #220, Eau Claire, WI 54703. *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die"* (John 11:25-26).

Looking Ahead...

- ✝ **Today:** Board of Trustees and Church Council
- ✝ **Today:** Christmas Eve Practice
- ✝ **Dec. 19-23:** Pastor out of town
- ✝ **Dec. 22:** Orlando Service 8 am
- ✝ **Dec. 24:** Christmas Eve **7 pm**
- ✝ **Dec. 25:** Christmas Day 10:15a
- ✝ **Jan. 5:** Annual Voters' Meeting
- ✝ **Jan. 5:** Communion and Fellowship Snack

Bible Class and Sunday School will be taking a hiatus the next two weekends. We will see you on January 5th!

CLC Call News Pastor Jim Albrecht, St. John's, Okabena, MN has been called by Berea, Sioux Falls, SD. <> Pastor Andrew Schaller, Calvary, Marquette, MI has returned the call extended to him by the CLC Board of Missions to serve as the CLC's third foreign missionary. <> Pastor Norm Greve, St. Peter's, Iron River, MI has returned the call extended to him by Redeemer, Bowdle and Zion, Ipswich, SD. <> The CLC Call Committee for Educational Institutions has called Pastor John Hein to serve as professor at Immanuel Lutheran College in Eau Claire, WI.

2020 CLC Mission Helper Trip - The maximum number of applications have been accepted for the trip to Nepal this summer. If you would like to have your name placed on a waiting list, please contact Missionary Todd Ohlmann at thohlmann@gmail.com.

Shut-in/Encouragement List **Emily Kuehne** suffers from total blindness and severe knee pain when standing or walking. **Patti Meno** continues to receive treatment for her kidney condition and is awaiting a transplant. **Bill Issitt III** remains mostly housebound while recovering from several health problems. **Johanna Jaehnigen** remains mostly housebound. **Crystal Shaw** has recently received a positive diagnosis and is awaiting more doctor analysis. **Bill Hartmann's** health is deteriorating. **Bill Issitt Sr.** is progressing very well. **Loye Issitt** is receiving regular dialysis. **Delores Seger** is at Spring Lake rehab after her hospital stay. **John Weis** is recovering from emergency surgery. He is doing well.

Last Week (12/8) WH – 33 Orlando – 18

General = \$2,767.50 | ILC Scholarship = \$50 **Total Offering** = \$2,817.50

December Usher: Steve Goodwin

| **Cleaning (12/21):** Bernthal

| **Acolyte (12/22):** Mason G.

The Advent
of our KING

