

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

630 Adams St Wausau, WI 54403

Phone: (715) 842-3644

<http://www.immanuelwausau.org>

Sunday, December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent, Year C



Please welcome Kathy Robinson as she leads us in Worship today.

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

Please stand if able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P: God of might,
C: we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,
C: we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.

Lighting the 3rd Candle. The third candle is the rose candle that represents Joy in the preparation of Jesus coming.

Hymn	“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”	#240 vs. 3
Gathering Hymn	“He Came Down”	#253

Greeting: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

C: And also, with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

R: Word of God. Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

R: Please read responsively to Isaiah 12:2-6

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not ¹ be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become ¹ my
salvation.

³ **With joy you ¹ will draw water
from the wells ¹ of salvation. R**

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call ¹ on God's
name;

make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that
this name ¹ is exalted.

⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done ¹ gloriously;
let this be known in ¹ all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O ¹ royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy ¹ One of Israel. **R**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness
be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but
in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests
be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

R: Word of God. Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

pg. 142

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Pulpit Hymn

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

#239

Sermon

Kathy Robinson

Silence for reflection.

Hymn of the Day

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

#243

Please stand if able.

Apostles' Creed See the yellow sheet in the back of your hymnal.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: I invite you to share the Peace however you feel comfortable.

Please be seated for the Prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

Read by our Lector today:

Sue Schwede

Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

After "Lord, in your mercy," please respond with "receive our prayer."

A brief silence.

Offertory Hymn

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#254

The usher will bring up the offering plate, bread and wine.

Please stand if able.

Offering Prayer

P: Creator God,

you made the whole world,

even the farthest stars,

and you draw near to feed us.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food

that we may live in expectation

for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

As you leave this place, may you have the wisdom to lean on one another.

May you have the courage to hold onto hope,

The compassion to do the good that is yours to do,
And the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing.
For in a world full of dead ends, Advent invites us to begin again.
So start here. Start now. Start with love and begin again.
In the name of Christ ✝ our new beginning, go in peace.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

#264

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Attendance on 12/8/2024: 37

Prayer Concerns: Judi McGill and Bob Henning for medical challenges. Leora Mitchell, Joan Winterhoff, Mary Ann Klinker. (For updates, please contact the ILC Office)

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Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. Pastor Elijah Lekwate. Email for Justice Pule: pulejustice74@gmail.com

Volunteers needed to Host Coffee Hours. The sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.

Serving us Today

Leader: Kathy Robinson

Organist/Pianist:

Reader: Sue Schwede

Usher: Mike Schwede

Altar Guild: Kathy Knox, Joanne Distelhorst, Pattie Bricko and Holly Westaby

The mitten tree is set up in the Narthex. You may bring donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and sweaters to put on or under the tree.

Mark Your Calendar!



Blue Christmas Service, Monday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. A prayerfully cultivated service for those who have lost loved ones, for those who find the holidays to be a lonely time and for those who would like to spend more time in prayer. This service will have candle lighting, music, prayers, and a sermon. All are welcome. Here is the address: St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, 5304 N 44th Ave, Wausau, WI 54401.

Blue Christmas Service, Thursday, December 19, 2024, at 6:30p.m. This worship service will be held at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church at 503 Schmidt Ave, Rothschild, WI 54474. A place to support each other in grief and loss, but also to move toward the hope that comes with the birth of Jesus Christ. There will be a reception after.

Join us at Immanuel Lutheran Church on December 24, 2024, at 4:00 PM for a special Christmas Eve Service! Celebrate the birth of our Savior with a beautiful worship experience featuring the Hand Bell Choir Ensemble. There will be cookies and coffee afterwards. All are welcome – bring family and friends to share in the joy and peace of this holy night.

We have been invited to the following Christmas Services:

- **December 25, 2024**, Combined Christmas Day Service (10am) at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 930 Edgewood Rd, Wausau, WI 54403
- **December 25, 2024**, Christmas Day Service (9am) at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 709 Weston Ave, Wausau, WI 54403

The Men's Discussion Group meets Thursdays at 7:30 am, in the Koinonia room. New participants are always welcome.

Strong Bones Senior Exercise Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday in the old Nursery at 10:30 am. The class is open to anyone wishing to improve balance and maintain strength to prevent falls. New faces are happily welcome.

Food Pantry Donations for the Neighbors' Place

Place your items on the black cart next to the pew near the Gathering Room and they will be delivered to the Neighbors' Place.