Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

PO Box 843 Granby, CO 80446 **Ministers:** All God's People (970)887-9252 Pastor: Rob Moss

LOTV Worship with Holy Communion

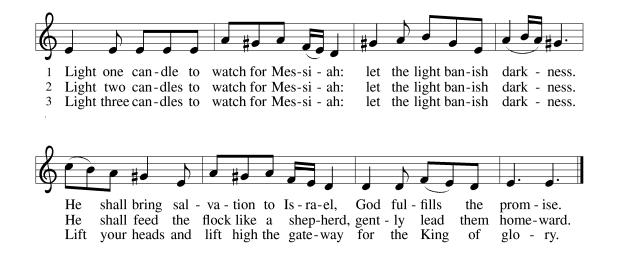
Sunday, December 15th Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: We light candles for the four weeks of Advent reflecting on Christ who is always entering into our lives and our world. Today, we light three candles, a candle of hope, a candle of peace, and today we add a candle of joy. Even in the midst of struggles and darkness, we are people filled with joy: joy from being loved and joy from God coming to abide with us in Jesus. We come with our yearning to live out God's joy.

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" verses 1-3



Prayer of the Day

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

C: 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.

Readings

Zephaniah 3: 14-20 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgements against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 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 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. 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. 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.

Philippians 4: 4-7

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

Children's Message

Gospel

Luke 3: 7-18

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? 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. Even now the axe 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.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' 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.'

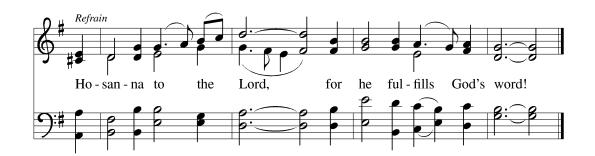
As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 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.' So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Sermon



Song of the Day "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Song Continues on Next Page...



Affirmation of Faith for Advent

We believe in God,

creator and lover of the earth, the origin and the destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ,

God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn, who emerges as the herald of hope.

He is God's laughter in the face of despair, leading the way to the reign of promise where God's justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God,

announced by the Baptist, exclaimed by Elizabeth, and sung by Mary.

It has drawn near to us in Jesus and will be realized in the coming reign of God on earth, when all who have lived in sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day, we hope, we work, and we pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Prayers of the People

A: Lord, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.

Offering

Great Thanksgiving

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them up to God.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P: In this Advent season we await with longing for the fullness of your reign, O God, where all are welcomed, loved, invited, and fed without condition. And so it is with hope and trust on this day that we join with Mary, who was so filled with that vision that she couldn't help but sing of it with joy.





Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Distribution of Communion

We welcome all people who come in the faith to partake of Holy Communion. Smaller children are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available, ask server as you approach.

Benediction

"Love Has Come" Sending Song light in the 1 Love has come а dark - ness! Love shines forth in the 2 born! Come, share in the won - der. Love God now a -Love is is 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -See, all Beth - le - hem skies. heav-en has come to pro - claim it; glow in sleep in the See the the eyes of hay. his moth - er; last - ing and free. Love Je - sus with - in is and a - mong us. hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un-to the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! what is Love is the Love is the peace our hearts are seek-ing. Love! Love! Love is the Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo-ry to God on high. you, а name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el. gift of Christ-mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Dismissal

Leader: Go in peace and hope to serve the Lord! ALL: Thanks be to God. And we will!