

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

Today's gospel reading suggests that our waiting and watching during Advent has a quality of mystery in the unknown that calls us to still deeper faith in Christ. If you are able, join the congregation with your own worship at home **at 10am on Sunday** or otherwise engage our home worship resources in ways appropriate to your circumstances.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**The Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020
Our Common Prayer at Home**

You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip based worship videos, or by engaging the entire worship video. Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. If you have an Advent wreath at home, you may wish to light three candles. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
the LORD 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;
²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to 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 the glory of God.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For 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.

⁹Their 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.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
and 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.

¹¹For 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading. Music may be found at:
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201213/playlist>

PSALM 126

- ¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.
- ²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great | things for them.”
- ³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.
- ⁴Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.
- ⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.
- ⁶Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and will do this.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Judeans sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰John confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.”

²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³John said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Having read these readings, think of this:

Mourning and waiting for comfort are the human condition. Right now all the world waits for healing. Christians in the northern hemisphere have taken Advent darkness as a strong and evocative symbol for all human waiting, in all times. The darkness of this season has a certain quiet beauty, especially as it frames the growing presence of holiday lights, but — like John the Baptist — this season is not the light. John then bears witness to the Light that is Christ: “Among you stands one whom you do not know.” Every Sunday celebrates the presence of the crucified and risen Christ in the power of the Spirit.

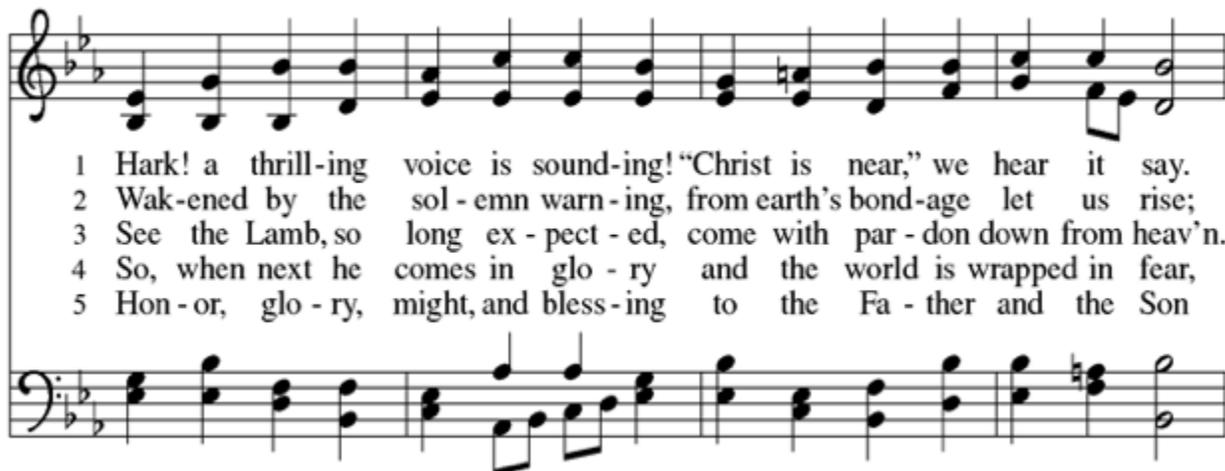
This Third Advent Sunday celebrates how Christ stands present with us all now, hidden in the midst of and sharing all human waiting. Just so, he is already the garland God puts upon the earth, the springing up of righteousness like a blossoming garden, the grounds of our rejoicing. In our baptism and in the word we hear today, we are clothed like guests at God's marriage with the earth, and we are invited to turn to our mourning and waiting neighbors, being with them in comfort as Jesus Christ is, and working to repair the ruined cities.

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman's Third Sunday of Advent Sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at:
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201213/playlist>

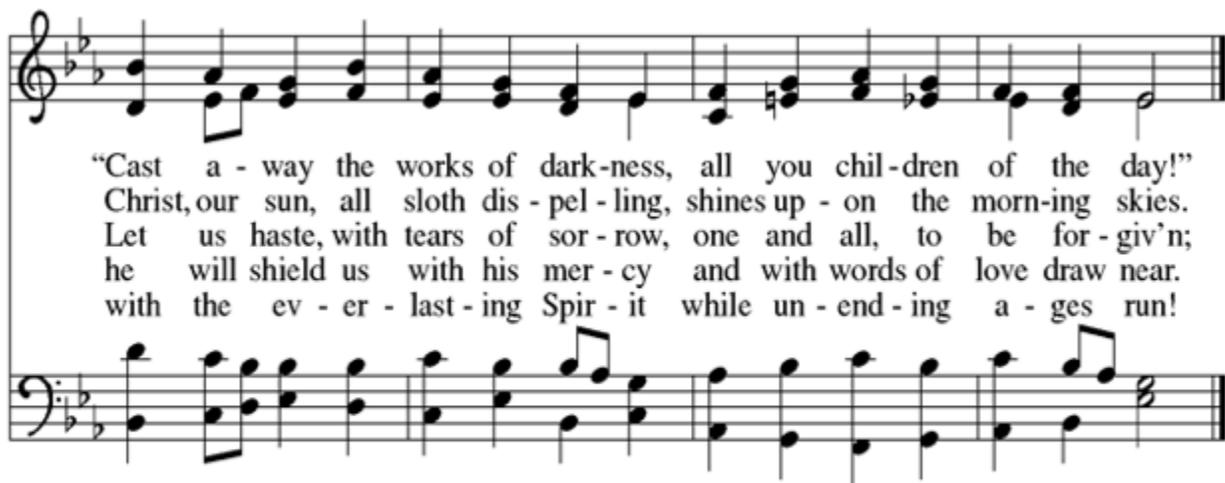
You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201213/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #246

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Then pray these intercessions:

On this third Sunday of Advent, we join in prayer as we await God's salvation, responding to each petition with the words "Mighty Savior, come and save us."

A brief silence.

God of prophets and preachers, strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, and lay leaders. Protect Christians who are persecuted for the faith. While churches await a full return to assembly worship, empower the baptized with your faithful Spirit. Embed your word in our hearts.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church:

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of creation, grant relief to endangered animals and plants. Protect the rain forests. Provide for those who rely for their livelihood on nature's rhythms. Train us to dwell on this earth in such a way that all people may thrive.

A brief silence.

We pray for the earth:

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of all lands, plant in the leaders of every nation a love of justice and a commitment to serve the common good. Calm tensions in the Middle East, and bring peace where civil conflicts rage. Release child soldiers from forced service. Equip regions to rebuild cities that have been destroyed by war.

A brief silence.

We pray for the nations:

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of exiles and wanderers, give a homeland to refugees. Provide housing for those whose dwellings have been destroyed. Protect street people from the cold, and be with teenage runaways. Uphold the work of Good Gifts, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations. Comfort all who feel isolated from others.

A brief silence.

We pray for all in distress:

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of the sorrowing and the brokenhearted, give health to the sick, relief to medical workers, and comfort to mourners. Attend to those with lifelong illness. We beg for an end to the coronavirus and a fair distribution of the vaccines. Receive our prayers for: Barb Jensen, Charlotte Boeck, Don Hansen, Gretchen Zeltner, Angie, Kyler, Debbie, Kat, Jeanne, Russ, Lynn Kiewel, John Beston, Jamie, Frank Fuelling, Heidi Dech, Father Phillip Swingler, Irene Mount, Michael Chaffier, Maria Liwski and Joyce Johnson.

A brief silence.

We pray for the sick.

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of each one of us, we await peace and justice, health and wholeness. Sustain us, as we await your coming. Hear now our unceasing prayers.

A longer period of silence.

We pray for ourselves:

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God of sinners and saints, while facing sadness and death, we grieve; yet we offer you praise for all the saints, especially the martyr Lucy, those who have died of Covid, and those whose names we call out to you now: Carl Lacey and Joseph Huntington. At the end, gather us into the joy of your glory.

A brief silence.

We pray for your salvation.

Mighty Savior, come and save us.

God beyond all things, God dwelling among us now, receive these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, who came, who comes, and who is coming now and forever.

Amen.

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201213/playlist>

HYMN #239

Hark, the Glad Sound!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Holy God, the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope as we wait,
we praise you for joining us to your people of old.

We bless you for your prophets who call us to righteousness
and promise a new earth with peace for all.

For the Word of your covenant, we thank you, O God.

We thank you, O God.

We praise you for the coming of Jesus our Lord,
who lifts up the lowly, heals the suffering world,
and proclaims your way of mercy and truth.

For your Word who is Christ, we magnify you, O God.

We magnify you, O God.

Send your Spirit on all who receive your Word.

Nurture our faith with your grace,

accompany us with your might,

and empower our zeal for your justice and joy.

For your Word through the church, we praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

All praise to you, holy God,
today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Then speak the Blessing:

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.



We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let this food to us be blessed.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday (commemoration of John of the Cross, renewer of the church, 1591) Psalm 125.

Tuesday Acts 3:17—4:4. **Wednesday** Mark 9:9-13. **Thursday** Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26.

Friday Hebrews 1:5-14. **Saturday** John 7:40-52. **Fourth Sunday of Advent** (commemoration of Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, 1552) 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn #246 and Hymn #239.

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