



## WELCOME IN THE NAME OF THE CRUCIFIED AND RISEN JESUS CHRIST!

Please use and share the following resources so that together we may worship God the Father who created us, God the Son who saved us, and God the Holy Spirit who called us to faith and who continues to call us to love God and neighbor.

### **Sunday, December 13, 2020, Third Sunday in Advent**

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

**PRELUDE**

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

**Egil Hovland**

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH, WEEK 3 LITANY**

**L:** At every beginning there is a yearning  
for the one who is coming.

O Emmanuel,

**Open us up to your coming.**

**L:** We gather together to allow our deeply held hopes  
to be reshaped by God’s promises.

O Emmanuel,

**Open us up to your coming.**

**L:** We wait for the day  
when God will make for us a future  
that is no longer predicated on our fear.

O Emmanuel,

**Open us up to your coming.**

**L:** We find a new receptivity within us  
that desires God’s will over our own will  
and relies on God’s justice and mercy to accomplish it.

O Emmanuel,

**Open us up to your coming.**

**L:** Jesus, we welcome your presence now  
with the lighting of these candles,  
whose flames bring warmth to winter  
and fill this place with the glow of hope.

**Amen.**

*Light three candles.*

**SONG**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

# 257, st. 1-6

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

*Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.*

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, which, 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.**

## Reading from the scriptures

**Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he 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;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to 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 his glory.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
<sup>8</sup>For 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.  
<sup>9</sup>Their 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.  
<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he 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.  
<sup>11</sup>For 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.

## **Anthem**

### ***Come Emmanuel Come*** **Philip Kriner and Beverly Kriner, duet**

**Ruth Elaine Schram**

## **Gospel**

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

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

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

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

## **Sermon for Children and Youth**

**Beverly Kriner**

## **Sermon**

**Pastor David Rowe**

## **Hymn of the Day**

***Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn***

**# 242**

- 1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,  
for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,  
behold! the Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor,  
to bring all hearts together,  
he opens wide the heav'nly door  
and lives now inside us forever.
- 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear,  
Emmanuel comes a-singing,  
his humble song is quiet and near,  
yet fills the earth with its ringing;  
music to heal the broken soul  
and hymns of lovingkindness,  
the thunder of his anthems roll  
to shatter all hatred and blindness.
- 3 In darkest night his coming shall be,  
when all the world is despairing,

as morning light so quiet and free,  
so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song,  
the lame shall leap in wonder,  
the weak be raised above the strong,  
and weapons be broken asunder.

- 4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,  
though dark the winter and cheerless,  
the rising sun shall crown you with light,  
be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer  
and love our endless story;  
may God fill ev'ry day we share  
and bring us at last into glory.

*Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950. Text © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

## **Apostles Creed**

*We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,  
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**  
**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;**  
**we have not loved our neighbor;**  
**we have not been Christ to one another.**  
**Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**  
**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:  
by God's endless grace  
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.  
May you be strengthened in God's love,  
✠ comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. *A brief silence.*

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in the hearts of leaders and all our people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to people sick with the coronavirus throughout the world. Strengthen researchers and distributors of vaccines, uphold the weary medical teams in crowded hospitals, give teachers and students the ability to teach and learn both in-person and virtually, and sustain essential workers as they protect the chain of food and clothing, shelter, and security. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern in this time of pandemic. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy may be revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, or unemployment. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and relief organizations and ministries. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love, especially Lucy, a martyr of the church. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

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

**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.**

### **Blessing**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,

the long-expected Savior fill you with love,

the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,

✠ now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn**

***Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers***

**# 244**

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.

The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.

Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.

2 The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;

go forth as he approaches  
with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;  
the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
the bridegroom is at hand.

3 The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and suffrings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him  
their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!

*Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907*

**Postlude**     *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn*

**Mark Sedio**

### **Offering**

*Please mail your offering to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA. Or you can drop it through the slot in the door at the back, office entrance of the church building.*

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### **PRAYER LIST**

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner,



Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Nancy Cooper, David and Angela Weiser, Faye Sausser, Kim O'Donnell, Leslie Wagner, Mateo Thomas, Barry Heffner, Charlotte Moyer, Phyllis Trinca Czech, Ed Sirianni, Stephen Edwards

**Those with Long-term health issues:**

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Direnzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Steficheck, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson, Jerry Stoutland, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Gemma Geary

**Those serving in the Armed Forces:**

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

**WEEKLY NEWS**

***IN-PERSON WORSHIP*** this morning has been cancelled because one person who attended last week was unknowingly infected and soon developed symptoms and a positive Covid test. Therefore in keeping with our previously announced policy, out of an abundance of caution to protect everyone as much as possible out of Christ's call to love our neighbors, we have cancelled today's gathering (please mail your December 13 offering to the church, or drop it off through the mail slot at the side office door. Thank you for continuing your faithful giving through this pandemic).

***AFTER PRAYERFULLY CONSIDERING CHURCH AND HEALTH GUIDELINES***, but most importantly the well-being of both our siblings in Christ at Jerusalem as well as that of our neighbors, our Church Council, together with our Coronavirus Task Force, has made the difficult decision to cancel all in-person worship from now through January 10. We hope to resume our worship gatherings on January 17, of course still masked and at a distance.

***OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM, DECEMBER 20 at 9:15 am.*** Please email the office (mail@jerusalem.lutheran.com) if you can attend. We will then use your email to send the Zoom link close to Sunday. Zoom is a free program that you can download and register for, that works on computers, smart tablets and smartphones. If you have not used Zoom, we recommend that new users try it with a friend before the meeting.

***THE TOTAL OF JERUSALEM'S CAPITAL CAMPAIGN*** as of November 30, 2020 is \$217,474.63. Thank you so much for your faithful giving!

***GOD'S BARNYARD SALE STARTING NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020.*** There are two ways to be involved in God's Barnyard this year.

- First, you can make an online donation to fulfill Jerusalem's goal to "purchase" a Family

Farm. Together as a congregation, we can support the start of a family farm with animals, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training for a family living in poverty. You can find the link to our donation page at [jerusalem.lutheran.com](http://jerusalem.lutheran.com). Look for upcoming events and click on God's Barnyard. That will lead you to a spot to CLICK which will take you directly to our secure donation page. You can even track our progress on that page!

- The second way to be involved in God's Barnyard is to utilize the God's Barnyard Order Form that can be found in the Winter Newsletter. (You can also take a look at the order form at our website.) Make your selection on the order form and mail it, along with a check made out to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, to 252 Dock St., Schuylkill Haven PA 17972. Or just drop it off at the church office. We have some ornaments and cards to match your order that can be obtained at your request. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Covert.

**SUNDAYS AND CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP.** Video recordings for each Sunday and Christmas Eve will be posted on our website and Facebook. Mailings of bulletins and sermons will continue for people who do not have computer access (please call if you are not currently receiving these, and would like them). **Christmas Poinsettias** that have been ordered, like we said on the order form, will still be delivered. They will decorate the chancel for the Christmas Eve video, and we will notify donors when the poinsettias can be picked up.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXTRA GIVING TO MISSION SUPPORT** during the month of November. In addition to your year-round giving, these "second mile" gifts provided \$826 extra toward our partnership goal for ministry through our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for the mission work that can only be done through the wider church!

**YOUR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND END-OF-YEAR GIVING** helps us to end 2020, and begin 2021 in a stronger position. Because we will NOT be having services the last Sunday of the year, please give your Christmas and year-end giving by mailing or dropping it off through the mail so that it arrives in the office no later than **December 28**. Thank you!

#### **CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:**

**TUESDAY** 11:00am Corona Virus Task Force Meeting Via Zoom

7:00pm Child Care Committee Meeting Via Zoom

**FRIDAY** 1:00pm Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry Distribution

#### **STAFF AND LEADERS**

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Rachel Kramer, *Parish Administrator*: [mail@jerusalem.lutheran.com](mailto:mail@jerusalem.lutheran.com)

Jill McCloy, *Treasurer*: [treasurer@jerusalem.lutheran.com](mailto:treasurer@jerusalem.lutheran.com)

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