

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025
Lord of Life Lutheran Church**



CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeremiah said, “I am only a boy.”

Moses said, “Who am I to do this work?”

Mary said, “How can this be?”

We often say, “But God, I am afraid.”

Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer.

So may we trust the Inviter.

May we heed God’s invitation.

May we summon our courage and sing God’s praise.

Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God.

GATHERING HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

#256

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards.

We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents.

We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us.

Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

Candles are lit..

God is with us

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Friends, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don’t want to advertise our blunders. We don’t want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on.

But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves—blunders and all. So let us go before God in prayer, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator. Let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Courageous God,
you invite us to live into our call.
You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.
Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,” we often hide our face.
We dig our heels in.
We look for someone else to volunteer.
Spark courage in us.
Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.
Remind us that even when we’re scared, we are not alone.
You invite us forward.
With baby steps we hope,
we pray, Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith,

No matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So, join me in declaring this good news:

**We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve. May we step forward in faith,
always moving closer to God’s call. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One, we’ve heard this tale before. We’ve seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs, witnessed the children act it out. The story of this season is not a new one, and yet we long to hear it as if it is. So spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us. Allow us to hear this ancient tale with brand new ears. With hope we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” ⁷But the Lord said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord.”

⁹Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-39

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"^[b] ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,

SERMON

MUSICAL OFFERING

Suzanne Bowen

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

#251

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We have seen the valley.
We have seen a sky without stars.
We have seen the longest night,
and still we believe.

We believe in a with-us God.
We believe in the hope of tomorrow.
We believe that good news
is louder than fear.
We believe this good news
is for all people.

So even when our knees shake,
even when our voice trembles,
even when fear is all around us,
we will hold onto that good news.

We will reach for each other.
We will look for God in our midst.
We will sing songs of joy.

We will proclaim:
Unto us, love is born.
We have seen the longest night,
and we have seen unimaginable love.
So still, we believe.
Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERTORY

We Are Waiting for Jesus

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

vs 1-2, 7

#257

THE BLESSING

May you remember that good news is louder than fear.

SENDING

Go in peace, and

be not afraid!

Adapted from Liturgy by Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Photography by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

He Came Down

Text: Cameroon traditional; Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

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