HOLY COMMUNION

One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire
Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2015 + 10:30 a.m.

Exploring the promise of God for all

Christ, the farmhand gathers wheat into the barn of heaven.
The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his 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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE
Prelude on Advent Hymns arr. Anne Krentz Organ

At the sound of the bell the assembly stands
to face the worship leaders under the advent wreath.

ADVENT PROCESSION

Give thanks to the Lord; call upon God’s name.

Make known his deeds among the nations.

O Come, O Come, and set us free.

Surely, God is our salvation; we will trust and will not be afraid.

O Come, O Come, and set us free.

Shout and sing for joy, O Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.
GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY
From the one who was, and who is, and who is to come:
Grace and peace be with you all.
And also with you.
Let us pray...
Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN’S WORD
Children are invited to come forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

FIRST READING  Rejoice, the LORD is in your midst  Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

19The 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.
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.

Word of God come down to us.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING  Rejoice, the Lord is near Philippians 4:4-7

Paul writes: 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.

Word of God come down to us.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Matthew 11:10

The assembly welcomes the gospel,
singing the ALLELUIA before and after the choir sings the verse.

Choir: I am sending my messenger before you
who will prepare a path for you.

The assembly repeats the ALLELUIA.

GOSPEL One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire Luke 3:7-18

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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? 8Bear 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. 9Even 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.”
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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

silence for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers!”

stanzas 2 & 3 in harmony

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in the promise of God for all, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

each petition concludes:
Come Lord Jesus.

B Come soon.

Prayer under the Advent Wreath

A Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity ✫ one God,
The Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
The mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
The Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

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

silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

B we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sin – those known to us that burden us, and those unknown to us but seen by you.
We know that before you nothing remains hidden, and in you everything is revealed.
Free us from the slavery of sin; liberate us from the bondage of guilt; work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; all for Jesus' sake. Amen.
With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God forgives you all your sin. May the Holy Spirit guide your feet into the way of peace.

Amen.

**MEAL**

**PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

A And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share God’s peace with one another.

**GATHERING OF GIFTS**

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this time, the table is set. After the offering is gathered, bread, wine, money, and other gifts are brought forward. The assembly stands as the procession reaches the chancel.

**Offering of Music**

“Magnificat”

C. V. Stanford

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden, for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him, throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm, he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy, hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**Offertory Prayer**

A Let us pray together.

A We proclaim your greatness O Lord, and bring before you the precious gifts of your creation.

Teach us patience and hope as you lift up the weak and lowly, and give us the courage to surrender to you our very lives.

We await the coming of your Son, Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

A And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

A We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... join their unending hymn:

\[\text{[Note: Music notation is represented here, likely in a standard musical score format.]}\]

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of might!

Heav’n and earth re - flect your glo - ry,
The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving; concluding:

**Lord's Prayer** (1975)

- 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.

Broken of the Bread and Invitation to the Table

**Music during Communion**

“Lamb of God”

- O Lamb of God, Lord Jesus Christ, 
  have mercy on your people here; 
- you take creation's sin away, 
  grant us your peace, hear us, we pray.

Pastorale and Estampie on “Joy to the World”  
*arr. Peter Ramsey*

Silence for reflection concludes the Communion

**Prayer after Communion**

- Let us pray. 
  God for whom we wait, 
  You come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. 
  Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our lives, 
  And send us forth to be your people in the world, 
  announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Amen.
God blesses and sends us in mission to the world

SENDING

BLESSING

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

(hymn) 249

stanzas 1, 3 & 5

DISMISSAL

Please face the processional cross for the dismissal.

A Go in peace. Prepare the way.

A Thanks be to God.

The carillon sends the assembly into mission.
Following worship please gather in south commons for coffee, or fellowship hall for lunch and community time.

POSTLUDE

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

J. S. Bach

SERVING TODAY

Pastor Melissa Pohlman
Pastor D. Foy Christopherson
Lydia Svendsen
Freddy Husbands, Henry Husbands
Mark Sedio
Jane Lien
Central Choir
Ian Snyder
Joan Hilden
Mark Kieffer, Marc Wilson
Richard Stegall, Dave West,
Bruce Bergeson-Meekins, Bill Masche
Varney Kiazolu

Trudy Ness, Janet Krofta
Pat Forse

presiding
preaching
assisting minister
readers
cantor/organist
associate cantor
choir
violin
crucifer

sound operators
sacristans
lead usher

hosts
docent

Chancel flowers today are given by Jackie and Lloyd Thorsen in loving memory of their son, Christopher Einar. If you wish to donate flowers contact Judy Korogi 10 days in advance at 612-788-1288.

Large print service folders, assisted listening devices, and access seating are available to aid your participation in worship. Please inquire with an usher.
WELCOME!

Everyone is welcome. As a community of the people of God, the members of Central Lutheran Church are called to welcome all people regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ “there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male or female” (Galatians 3:28). Christ has made us one.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. We invite guests to complete the “Welcome to Central” card found in the pew racks and leave it with an usher or place it in the offering plate. If you would like more information about Central, please contact us at 612-870-4416, or email info@centralmpls.org.

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available at Sanctuary entrances. If you would prefer to use Central’s nursery (available for children ages four and younger), you will find it up the steps from the information desk at the South Entrance (across from the fellowship hall). An usher or greeter will be glad to assist you.

Welcome to the Lord’s Table. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at Holy Communion. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to persons in designated access seating areas. If you are not in a designated access seating area and desire to commune where you are seated, please notify an usher who will direct communion ministers to come and serve you. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. Gluten-free breads and alcohol-free wine are available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

Welcome to Holy Baptism. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. A pastor will contact you.

Friends of Central…Stay connected. Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Central Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you’re one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Central. Pick up a brochure or visit our website for more information or to join.

Electronic giving is available at Central. You can go online through Central’s website at www.centralmpls.org and click on Donate to our Mission. If you give electronically, use the green pew card to drop in the offering plate instead of an envelope. Central Lutheran is supported by givers like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-870-4416.