HOLY COMMUNION

Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2012 + 11 a.m.

Central - in the heart of the city, welcomes all people to celebrate, discover and share the love of Christ

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

“Rejoice! The Lord Is Near”
Margaret R. Tucker
A setting for bells of two Swedish advent hymns:
Haf trones lampa färdig (ELW 244) and Bereden väg for Herran (ELW 264)

At the sound of the carillon the assembly stands and faces the cross at the entrance to the sanctuary.

ADVENT PROCESSION

A righteous branch will spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

All:

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low.

All:

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God.

All:

Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Love, the star, is on the way

During this year’s Advent season we gather around the theme “Love is on the Way” - a phrase from the hymn “People, Look East” (hymn 248 in Evangelical Lutheran Worship). Each week the final phrase of one of the four stanzas serves as our specific theme.
He shall feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the Lord our God.

“People, Look East”

GREETING

From the one who was, and who is, and who is to come:
Grace and peace be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...
Amen.

WORD

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!

15The 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.

16On 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, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

MUSIC FOR BELLS
“The King Shall Come”
arr. Cathy Mokelbust

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, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Matthew 11:10

The assembly welcomes the Gospel:

I am sending my messenger before you,
who will prepare your way.

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? 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 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.

Serenity

Silence for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Creator of the Stars of Night” stanza 1 - all; 2 - choir; 3 - all; 4 - choir; 5 - all

Following the hymn please turn and face the worship leaders under the advent wreath.

APOSTLES’ CREED

Let us together proclaim the faith that we share.

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.
PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Waiting in the promise of Christ’s coming,
we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

After each petition:
Come, Lord Jesus,
Come soon.

... Receive our prayers,
and speak to us through the presence of your Son,
Jesus Christ, your love made flesh.

Amen.

MEAL

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
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.

“The Shalt Know Him”
Mark Sirett

Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums,
nor his manners, nor his airs, nor anything he wears.
Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by his crown or by his gown,
his coming known shall be, by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee. Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray together.

God of abundance, we bring before you
the precious gifts of your creation, and with them our very lives.
Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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.

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

All earth is full of your glory, Hosanna in the
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.

**Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to the Table**

**Communion**

**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.

“As the Dark Awaits the Dawn”  
Carl Schalk

**Prayer after Communion**

> Let us pray.
> ... in Jesus Christ our Lord.
> Amen.
SENDING

BLESSING

God most high, God with us, God poured out on us ...

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

(hymn) 244

stanzas 2 & 3 in harmony

DISMISSAL

Please face the processional cross for the dismissal.

A  Go in peace. Prepare the way.

H  Thanks be to God.

The carillon sends the assembly into mission.

Brief sanctuary tours will be offered this morning following the postlude.

Please gather for fellowship following worship in the fellowship hall or south commons.

POSTLUDE

Postlude on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  Robert Powell

SERVING TODAY

The Rev. Dr. Mons Teig  presiding
Pastor D. Foy Christopherson  preaching
Julie Anderson  assisting minister
Verne Melberg  reader
Mark Sedio  cantor/organist
Jane Lien  associate cantor
Central Choir  choir
Campanas Central  bell choir
Susan Troselius, Rochelle Milbrath, Roy Heilman, Thomas Glass  quartet
Paul Peterson  crucifer
David Molvik, Mark Brodin  sound operators
Dave West, Richard Stegall  sacristans

Darlene Erickson, Arlene Murphy, Bob & Phyllis Whitney, Judy Berge, Dave Forse  hosts and greeters
Cheryl Erickson  docent

Seasonal Worship Team
Dave West, Tom Hanna, Lynn Olson, Michael Wickman, Clarance Smith, Richard Stegall, Tom & Sue Jorgensen

Seasonal Environmental Team
Stephen Shearer & Michael Wickman, Paul Troselius, Renee Troselius, Judy Bogard, Skip Thorkelson, Christopher Haug, David Nelson, Nancy Dillon, Sara Klomp, Jim Sample, Karen Hielsberg

Today’s presider. We welcome Central member The Rev. Dr. Mons Teig as our presider today. Mons is Worship Professor Emeritus of Luther Seminary and a retired ELCA pastor. He grew up on an Iowa farm, served congregations in Brooklyn, NY and Los Angeles, was on the ALC worship staff, and then served 19 years as professor of worship at Luther Seminary. Mons and his wife Shirley joined Central in 1989.
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 are welcome at the Lord’s Table. 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.

We envision becoming a thriving, vibrant model of urban Lutheran ministry for the 21st century. This lofty vision requires us to ask each day if our goals for worship, learning, and service are clearly reaching a diverse neighborhood and city in language and action that reflect the world as well as our heritage.