

# Crow River Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 10, Belgrade, MN 56312

320-254-3249

[bgcrgparishmn@gmail.com](mailto:bgcrgparishmn@gmail.com)

**December 15, 2024**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**



Pastor Lisa Meshke, [pastorlisaanne@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisaanne@gmail.com)

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting of Advent Candle**

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this first candle in hope. (*Light the first candle.*)

We light this second candle for peace. (*Light the second candle.*)

We light this third candle in joy! (*Light the third candle - Pink*)

To those who live as exiles from home in a dark time, to those enslaved as exiles due to others' oppression, to those who are sin's exiles from their best God-promised selves, the Lord speaks the joy of good news. A reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20.

Reader 1:

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

Reader 2:

"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.

Prayer:

**Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust and not be afraid,  
for the LORD is my strength and my might;  
God has become my salvation.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day:

**Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I say, Rejoice!**

Sing praises to the LORD, for God has done gloriously!

**Hymn:** "He Came Down" ELW #253 v.4 (sing twice)

**\*Confession and Forgiveness:**

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

L: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**\*Apostolic Greeting:**

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

**\*Kyrie:** Setting 4, ELW, page 147-148

**\*Hymn of Praise:** "This is the Feast" Setting 4, ELW, page 149-150

**\*The Prayer of the Day:**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people Lord God, **and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading:****Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The 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. <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup> 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 <sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival." I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsive Psalm Reading:****Isaiah 12:2-6**

L: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation."

**C: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

L: And you will say on that day: "Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted.

**C: Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

L: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

**Scripture Reading:****Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Sermon**

**\*Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" ELW, Setting 4, Page 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Augsburg Fortress. #SB109327

**\*Holy Gospel:**

**Luke 3:7-18**

L: The Holy Gospel according to the Book of Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and 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. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What, then, should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> 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." <sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> 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 strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> 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." <sup>18</sup> So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people.

L: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**\*Hymn:** "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" ELW #843

**\*Apostles' Creed:**

**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 the People:**

L: Lord, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

**\*Peace:**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also, with you.**

**Offering Music**

by Wendell Nash and Cammi Wenberg

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**\*Great Thanksgiving:**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*Holy, Holy, Holy:**

ELW Setting 4, Page 153

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest,

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Hosanna in the highest.

**\*Words of Institution**

**\*The Lord's Prayer:**

**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.**

**Distribution of Holy Communion**

**\*Communion Blessing & Communion Prayer:**

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

**\*Benediction:**

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn:**

"How Great Thou Art"

ELW #856

**\*Dismissal:**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**