

# **Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

**Advent Three – December 13, 2008  
Pastor Mark Voss**

## **AS WE GATHER**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

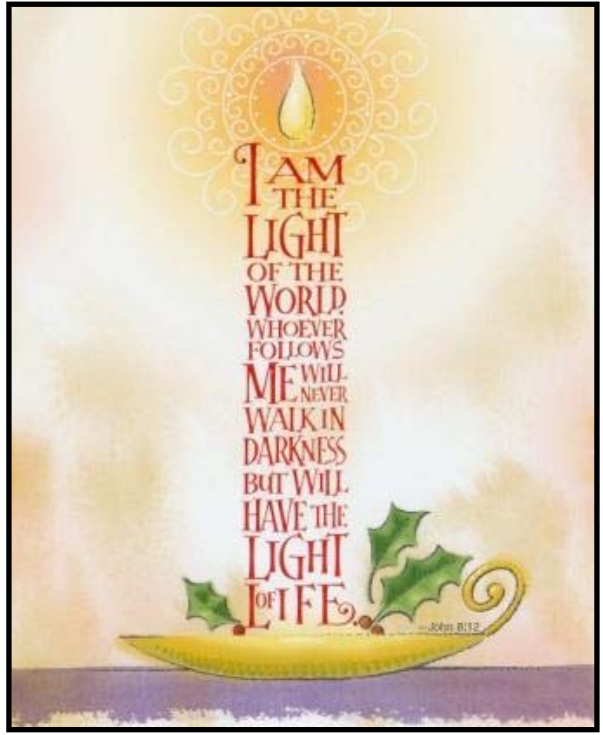
**C: On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry**

P: Those who dwell in a land of deep darkness, on them has the Light shined.

**C: Announces that the Lord is nigh;**

P: The true Light that enlightens every man is coming into the world

**C: Come, then, and hearken, for he brings glad tidings from the King of Kings.**



**OPENING HYMN - "Lift Up Your Heads You Mighty Gates**

**CW 3 vv 1-3**

## **CONFESSION OF SINS**

P: Nothing brings greater encouragement to us than the forgiveness Christ offers through his atoning work. Let us once again heed the call of John the Baptist to turn away from our sins and turn to Christ. In Jesus we will again find hope.

**C: My sin is always before me, Lord. I have not loved you above all things and I have not loved my neighbor as myself. I am guilty. In my sin, I live apart from you. Forgive me, Lord. Encourage me that I may live my faith and serve your cause of righteousness and peace.**

P: In the place and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Dear friends in Christ, rejoice.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

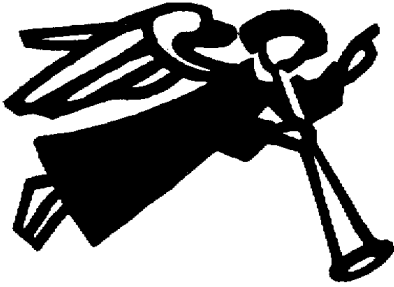
P: The Lord be with you.

**C: (sing) And also with you.**

P: Let us pray:

**C: (sing) Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – Zephaniah 3:14-17** <sup>14</sup>Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. <sup>16</sup>On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. <sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."



### PSALM 98

P: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things;

**C: his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

P: The Lord has made his salvation known

**C: and revealed his righteousness to the nations.**

**SING: His faithfulness to Israel's house, his love he does recall** Tune CW90  
**Salvation meant for all the earth, has been revealed to all, has been revealed to all.**

P: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,

**C: burst into jubilant song with music;**

P: make music to the Lord with the harp,

**C: with the harp and the sound of singing,**

P: with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn –

**C: shout for joy before the Lord, the King.**

**SING: The sea and all its creatures join to praise his love so free;**  
**The world and all who live therein now join the jubilee; now join the jubilee.**

P: Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;

**C: let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.**

P: He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**SING: Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore**  
**And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore, We praise you evermore**

**GOSPEL LESSON – Luke 3:7-18** <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>Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>8</sup>Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>"What should we do then?" the crowd asked. <sup>11</sup>John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. <sup>14</sup>Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely--be content with your pay." <sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup>And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

## **MUSICAL SELECTION**

**8:30a – “Simple Joy” Karen Springer and Diane Moore**

**10:30a – “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Tone Chime Choir**

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH** (Martin Luther’s Explanation to the Second Article)

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

## **SERMON HYMN – CW 381**

***“Grace Has a Thrilling Sound”***

## **SERMON – THE SAVIOR IS COMING TO TOWN “To Wake the Dead”**

<sup>1</sup>To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. <sup>2</sup>Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. <sup>3</sup>Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

<sup>4</sup>Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup>He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. <sup>6</sup>He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

***Revelation 3:1-6***

## OFFERING AND PRAYERS

HYMN OF THE DAY – CW12 vv 1-3

*“Hark The Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”*

**PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS SERVICE** (10:30a – see insert)

The use of cameras and video-recorders during our worship service is not permitted.

A videotape of the service is available upon request from the church office.

## CLOSING VERSES

P: He that testifies these things says, “I am coming soon.”

**C: Come, Lord Jesus. Come!**

P: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**C: Come, Lord Jesus. Come!**

P: All those who await his appearance pray:

**C: Come, Lord Jesus. Come!**

P: The whole creation pleads:

**C: Come, Lord Jesus. Come!**

## BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: (sing) Amen, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN – CW12 v 4

*“Hark The Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”*

Text, Tune, Setting: public domain.



**Our glad hosannas,  
Prince of Peace,  
Your welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With your beloved name.**

# Ways We See Jesus



Christ Our Redeemer's Preschool and  
Kindergarten Christmas Service

Children: Advent candles help us know how many weeks we have to go.  
Each week we light one more to say it's almost time for Christmas Day.

**C:** We fill our wreathes with evergreens, because we know what it means.  
The fresh bright greens help us recall, that Jesus brings life to us all.

Children: Come and see the Manger scene, all the figures bright and clean,  
Mary, Joseph, shepherds, too, waiting, Jesus, just for you.

**Song by Children - "Away In a Manger"**

CW68 Text and Tune: public domain.  
\*Setting: c 1993 Mrs. James E. Engel. Used by permission.

**C:** Christmas cards arrive these days, some came from so far away.  
The messages bring hope and joy, telling of the Savior boy.

Children: Wrapping presents. lots of whispers, gifts for fathers,  
aunts and sisters, Gifts of love and gifts to share remind us,  
Lord, how much you care.

**C:** That star, O God, you made to glow,  
A star to let the Wise Men know  
Where they'd find a special King.  
A King to make the whole world sing.

**Song by Children - "Rise Up and Follow"**

*African American Spiritual, Public Domain*

