



A reading from Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

+

A reading from James.

(Not Printed)

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

+

The gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

8:00 am



*Everlasting joy shall  
be upon their heads;*

ISAIAH 35:10B

#### GATHERING

**Confession and Forgiveness**

(Inside back cover of hymnal)

**Gathering Song No. 248**

*"People, Look East"*

**Greeting**

✠ Kyrie p. 3

**Prayer of the Day**

**Advent Wreath Lighting and Hymn**

**WORD**

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

✠ Gospel Verse p. 8

**Gospel** Matthew 11:2-11

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day No. 266**

*"All Earth is Hopeful"*

**Nicene Creed** p. 9

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Peace**

**MEAL**

**Offering**

✠ As the Grains of Wheat p. 10

✠ Offertory Prayer p. 11

✠ Great Thanksgiving p. 11

✠ Holy p. 11

✠ Lord's Prayer p. 13

**Communion Distribution**

✠ Lamb of God p. 14

**Distribution Hymn No. 490**

*"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

**No. 253**

*"He Came Down"*

**SENDING**

**Post Communion Prayer**

**Blessing**

**Sending Song No. 267**

*"Joy to the World"*

**Dismissal**

✠ Indicates Liturgy from

*"Now the Feast and Celebration"*

ADVENT 3

9:30 am

#### GATHERING

**Advent Wreath Lighting and Hymn**

**Song No. 279**

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

**Christmas Program**

*"Too Many Shepherds"*

**Song No. 290**

*"Go Tell It On the Mountain"*

**Noisy Offering**

**WORD**

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

✠ Gospel Verse p. 8

**Gospel** Matthew 11:2-11

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day No. 266**

*"All Earth is Hopeful"*

**Prayers of Intercession**

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**MEAL**

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**SAINT  
ANDREW**

LUTHERAN CHURCH [www.salc-wausau.org](http://www.salc-wausau.org)

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**Sunday, December 15, 2019**

## WELCOME

### Visiting Today

If you are visiting today, thank you. If you wish, please fill out a "Visitor Card" located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.

### The Worship Service

The bold "No." on the front of your bulletin are hymn numbers. The Psalm can be found by turning the hymnal to the side and looking for the stripe. The small numbers marked with a "p." are at the bottom of the page at the front of the hymnal.

### Holy Communion

All are welcome. Distribution is by intinction, taking a piece of bread, dip it in the wine, and receive both elements at once. There is a gluten-free/grape juice option available near the baptismal font.

### Offerings

Thank you for all who contribute and share in the work of Christ's church. Please place your offering in the offering plate.

### Noisy Offering

A noisy offering will be received today in support of the ELCA World Hunger-Good Gifts.

### Spending Plan Review

**Today, 10:45 am, Activity Room**  
Using 2019 giving records, pledged support for 2020, and ministry needs, a proposed estimated budget will be presented to inform interested members of the anticipated budget for the coming year of ministry. All are welcome to attend this informative meeting and to ask questions about the year ahead prior to the **Annual Meeting is held on January 26, 2020.**

### Fair Trade Products

Need ideas for Christmas gifts? Fair Trade products will be available today and next Sunday. There are new and exciting items. Come and check them out!

### "Giving Tree"

Look for "Giving Tree" displays in the Fellowship Hall to choose local to global giving options during this season of Advent - Blessings in a Backpack, hats and mittens, ELCA Good Gifts.

### In the SALC Library

Celebrate the Christmas season with a good book. Come check out the Christmas display in the library.

### Christmas Food Baskets

If you or someone you know would appreciate receiving a Christmas Food Basket, please call the church office by **Tuesday, December 17** at 715-842-3333. Baskets will be ready to be picked up on **Saturday, December 21 at 9:30 am.**

### Looking for SALC Photos

If you have photos from 2019, we would like to include them in the annual meeting as a part of the year in review. If you have photos of your time at SALC over the years we would love for you to share them with us for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration next year. All photos can be submitted through the SALC website 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary page. If you have printed copies you would like to share, please e-mail [jenna@salc-wausau.org](mailto:jenna@salc-wausau.org) to coordinate a time to drop them off.

### 2020 Altar Flowers

Honor a loved one or special event with altar flowers in 2020. Your flowers may be taken home to be enjoyed following the last worship service on Sunday. Sign up on the kiosk in the Sanctuary.

## THIS WEEK AT SALC

### Sunday, December 15

- 8:00 am **WORSHIP**
- 9:30 am **WORSHIP with Sunday School Christmas Program**
- 9:30 am Adult Bible Study
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 10:45 am Gingerbread House Decorating
- 10:45 am Spending Plan Review

### Monday, December 16

- 7:00 pm AA, Alanon & Alateen
- 7:00 pm Dartball at Wesley

### Tuesday, December 17

- 9:00 am Reading Reflections
- 10:00 am Quilting for LWR

### Wednesday, December 18

- 6:45 am Son Riser's Bible Study
- 9:30 am Wonder? Women
- Lectionary Bible Study
- 10:00 am Men's Bible Study
- 11:00 am Art Devo
- 5:15 pm Handbell Reh.
- 6:15 pm 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Conf.
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir

### Thursday, December 19

- 12:15 pm **WORSHIP**
- 6:15 pm **WORSHIP**
- 7:00 pm Council Meeting

### "Christ In Our Home" Devotional

The 2020 first quarter of "Christ In Our Home" devotional is available in the Narthex. Please take a copy for your family.

### Associate Pastor Call Process Timeline

Pr. Justin has formally accepted the call to serve as associate pastor and will soon share the news in his current context. Following Sunday, his introductory video and the announcement will be shared more broadly. Please pray for Pr. Justin and his family.



## ADVENT HYMN



*Third Week of Advent*

### Come and Find the Goodness of the Lord

#### Verse 1

Come and find the goodness of the Lord.  
Sense the newness of his coming reign.  
Look in wonder for the mighty King.  
Hear the shouts of glory to His name.

#### Verse 2

See, He comes the hillsides bend in awe;  
Canyons, rivers, valleys rise to see;  
Sun and moon and stars proclaim His law;  
On the clouds His throne of majesty.

#### Verse 3

Yet, remain at peace, for Christ is King.  
He will rule in love eternally;  
Justice comes to earth from His bright face  
He has brought the truth which makes us free.

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor	Jenn Collins
Pianist	Joel Freiberg
Ushers	Shepherd Team
Lectors	Dave Mueller
	Lynn Lawson
Greeters	Ron & Betty Dotseth
	Susie & Ashley Soukup
Altar Guild	Joyce Schoepke, Sue McFaul,
	Jodi Gargulak & Barb Geiger



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
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DECEMBER 15, 2019  
THIRD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT



*Advent is the season of joy.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist
Monday	Isaiah 35:1-10	The return to Zion
Tuesday	James 5:7-10	Patience in suffering
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-22	A final greeting
Thursday	Nehemiah 8:9-12	Ezra reads God's Law
Friday	Philippians 4:4-9	Paul encourages the people
Saturday	Psalms 146:5-10	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	God is with us

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. **Isaiah 35:5-6 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, you who bring healing, hope, and joy to the world, give us the faith to trust your never-ending care through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who made heaven and earth, we thank you for this food, a sign of your never-failing love. Amen. (Psalm 146:6)

#### A Blessing to Give:

May God strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is near. (James 5:8)



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DECEMBER 15, 2019

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Joy to the World*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How would life be different for you if you were blind or deaf?
- God's promise that the blind will see and the deaf will hear seems too good to be true. In what ways does this promise bring joy instead of disbelief?
- John the Baptist wondered if Jesus was the awaited messiah. What would you tell John?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Isaiah 35:1-10.

The people of Israel were exiled far from home, imprisoned in Babylon, a foreign land. The people were wondering if there was a future for them. Did the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob abandon them? We can ask similar questions. Will our children have faith? Has our Lord abandoned us? To all such concerns and questions Isaiah responds with unbelievable images of God doing amazing things: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will walk; and those who can't talk will sing for joy. God makes the impossible possible. Advent reminds us of God's power and promise that is like no other. Advent is a time for joy and patient waiting (James 5:7-10) for God to do what only God can do, that is, save God's people. How does God's promise of care and salvation bring you joy?

*Pray:* **Come, Lord Jesus, help us to trust your amazing healing power for our lives and our world. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Psalms 146 is a song praising God's help. Happy are those who "give food to the hungry" (v. 7). Make cupcakes or cookies and write the words hope, peace, and joy on them. Put them in a bag or box and include a card that reads "Praise the Lord" (v. 1). Deliver them to an organization that feeds the hungry or to those who are homebound or living alone during this Advent season.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week we light three candles on the Advent wreath. They are the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy. Today's candle reflects the joyful return of God's people to Zion.

*Say:* This is the third week of Advent. Advent means "coming." We are waiting for the coming of Christ. Let us light the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy. [Light three candles]

*Read:* Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert (Isaiah 35:5-6).

*Respond:* Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives joy.

*Pray:* **Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope, peace, and joy. May we see with the eyes of faith the work of your kingdom in our lives and world. Amen**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)