

Word of God Lutheran Church
Grow • Build • Serve



Our Mission:
With God's help we are called to be a
multi-generational traditional church, grounded in
the Bible and focused on service in the community
and mission outreach.

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023**

ORDER OF SERVICE
December 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent

Advent • Christmas • Epiphany • Lent • Easter • Pentecost
Please refer to the green Lutheran Book of Worship Hymnal for service.

ENTRANCE RITE

Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting and Devotional

Hymn "**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**" WOV 630 v.1-3

Call to worship chime

* Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness LBW 56

* Entrance Hymn "**Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee**" LBW 551

* Greeting and Kyrie LBW 57

* The Lord be with you LBW 62

* Prayer of the Day

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

First Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm (*Read Responsively*) Psalm 126

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

* Alleluia Verse LBW 62

* Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

Children's Sermon

Sermon

* Hymn of the Day "**Hark, the Glad Sound!**" LBW 35

Blessing of the Angel Tree Gifts

* Apostles' Creed LBW 65

* Prayers LBW 65

* Share the Peace LBW 66

SHARING OF THE SACRAMENTAL MEAL

Offering

Offertory LBW 66

* Offertory Prayer LBW 68

* Great Thanksgiving LBW 68

* Holy, Holy, Holy LBW 69

* Words of Institution LBW 70

* The Lord's Prayer LBW 71

"Lamb of God" LBW 72

† Communion

* Blessing LBW 72

* Canticle "Thank the Lord" LBW 72

* Prayer, Benediction, and Dismissal LBW 74

* Closing Hymn "**On Our Way Rejoicing**" LBW 260

* Sending

* Please stand as able

† All who are baptized and believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine are invited to receive communion and assurance of God's forgiveness. *Children who have not been instructed in the sacrament should fold their hands to receive a blessing.*

NOTE: Page numbers are in the front of the hymnal, followed by the Hymn numbers. LBW is the green *Lutheran Book of Worship*. WOV is the blue *With One Voice Hymnal*.

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Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. . . .⁸For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

Psalm 126

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."**

³ The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

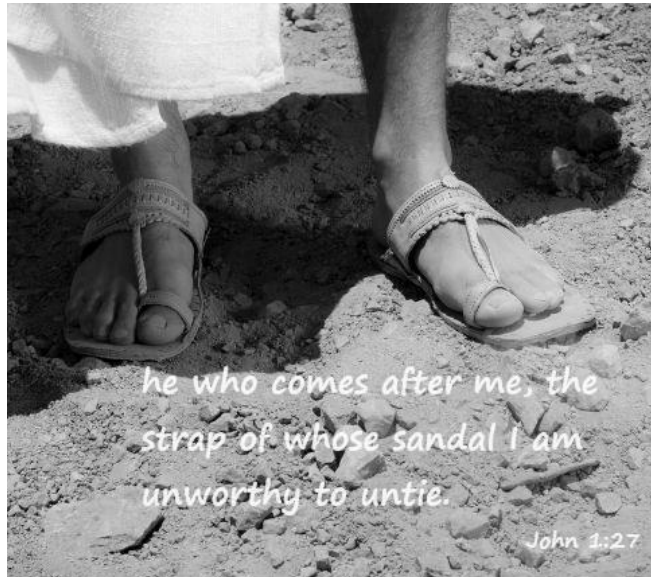
**⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!**

⁵Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!

**⁶ He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.



John 1:6–8, 19–28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . . ¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you are physically unable to come to the altar, **communion** will be brought to you at your seat. Please let your usher know so he /she can tell the Pastor where you are seated.
- The last **Midweek Advent service** is this Wednesday, December 20, at 7:00 PM. A soup supper will be held before service at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall.
- Please join us for the **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** on Sunday, December 24 at 6:00 PM. WoG's **Nativity of Our Lord Service** is at 10:15 AM on December 25.
- The **church office will be closed** Monday, January 2, in observance of New Year's.
- The **annual Congregational Meeting** is Sunday, January 14, following service. New Service Committee members will be elected at this meeting.
- A **New Member Reception** will follow service Sunday, January 7. Please take a moment to stop by the fellowship hall and introduce yourself.
- **Fish STIX Friday Night Fun Night** resumes on January 12 at 7:00 PM. Please contact Andi Laaker at wogfishstix@gmail.com for more information.
- A **First Holy Communion Class** will be held on Sunday, January 14, following service. Please contact Pastor Jason for more information.
- Our next **RLC Warehouse** service opportunity is Wednesday, January 10, at 9:00 AM, and the **RLC Mobile Food Pantry** will be Thursday, January 18, at 9:00 AM. Please sign up on the bulletin tear-off or contact Sue Burnett at suegburnett@att.net for more information.
- The next **Midwest Food Bank** distribution will be Tuesday, January 23 (8 AM - 12 PM & 6 PM - 8 PM); Wednesday, January 24 (8 AM - 1:30 PM); and Thursday, January 25 (8 AM - 12 PM). Lunch is provided each day to all volunteers. Contact Joe Bowler at ltcbowler@gmail.com or sign up on the bulletin tear-off.
- *Unless otherwise indicated, the **weekly announcement submission** deadline for the Sunday bulletin is the previous **Monday** at 11:00 AM. Please send all announcements to woglutheran@gmail.com.*

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