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Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

December 14, 2025 – Advent 3 Service of Holy Communion

Pastor: Rev. Liz Bell
Assisting Minister: Rev. Darryl Roste
Ministers: Every member
Ushers: Toby Schneider & Paul Thomsen

Council President: Karen Oko
Musician: Kathryn Elford
Video/Live Streaming: Anton Chell
Worship Host: Sara Dorow

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG “*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*” (ELW 242)

GREETING

KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE – ELW Setting 10 p.203, 204

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING ‘*Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*’ vs 1,2,3

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN’S TIME

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. 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.]] ³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ 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.” ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ 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; ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.

PSALM 146:5-10 read responsively

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

**⁶ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.
The Lord sets the captive free.

**⁸ The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.**

⁹ The Lord cares for the stranger;
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

**¹⁰ The Lord shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW Setting 10 p.205

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” ⁷ 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? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ 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.’ ¹¹ “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.”

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY ‘*Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand*’ (ACS 1024)

CREED: from the Iona Community

**We believe that God is present in the darkness before dawn;
in the waiting and uncertainty where fear and courage join hands,
conflict and caring link arms, and the sun rises over barbed wire.**

We believe in a with-us God who sits down in our midst to share our humanity.

**We affirm a faith that takes us beyond a safe place:
into action, into vulnerability and onto the streets.**

We commit ourselves to work for change and put ourselves on the line;

**to bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully and face humiliation;
to stand with those on the edge;
to choose life and be used by the Spirit
for God's new community of hope. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our prayers: Clarence, M, Cody M, Susan K, Pr. Richard R, Tom d, Gertie B, Pr. Erin T, Carl C, the family of Carl Sorenson who passed away this week, and those we hold dear in our hearts.

PEACE

OFFERTORY “We Are Waiting for Jesus’ (ACS 905) vs 1

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

HOLY, HOLY – ELW Setting 10 p.207

LORD’S PRAYER – traditional spoken

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONGS

‘Lamb of God – ELW Setting 10 p.208

‘Prepare the Royal Highway’ (ELW 264)

‘Wait for the Lord’ (ELW 262) sing 3x

‘He Came Down’ (ELW 253)

BLESSING

COMMUNITY LIFE

SENDING SONG ‘Joy to the World’ (ELW 267) vs 1,2,4

DISMISSAL



Online Giving





HSLC Sunday School is fundraising with CLWR to restore the ecosystem of 60 acres in the Chad Lake Basin.

Help us raise \$3000!

Donate online or mark
CLWR Friends of Creation
on your offering envelope



Advent & Christmas Services

Advent 4 - December 21

10 am Service of Holy Communion with HSLC Choir

Christmas Eve - December 24

5 pm Candlelight Service with HSLC Choir (live-streamed)

7 pm Candlelight Service

Christmas Day - December 25

No Service at HSLC

Trinity Lutheran Church @ 11 am

Christmas Service - December 28

10 am Service of Holy Communion