

# New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

*Lake Zurich, IL*

*...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.*

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## Third Sunday in Advent December 15, 2019

*A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church. The bathrooms are located in the basement of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the basement after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.*

*Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon.*

*In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.*

*Before Service Prayer:* O Emmanuel, You came as promised and ransomed all those held captive by sin and death. Prepare our hearts for Christmas. Bless our pastor with faithfulness to proclaim Your powerful Word. Lead us to repent through the preaching of the law, and then lift our hope with Your gospel. Especially in this season, move us to a greater appreciation for Your Old Testament promises. As ancient believers looked forward to Your first coming, teach us to look forward to Your second coming. Amen.

*Today's Service:* "Lead Us to Your Light" GIA gathering rite and Service of the Word, NPH, reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.

*Today's Theme:* In the Messiah's kingdom things are not always what they seem. Appearances can be deceiving and lead to doubt. In the Prayer of the Day the Church asks Christ to drive the darkness of doubt from our hearts and fill us with the light of the knowledge of Christ. Faith in Christ leads us to patiently hope in the Lord's caring plan despite any appearances to the contrary.

### *Pastor's Welcome*

*Lighting of the Advent Wreath* *Isaiah 35:8, 10*

P: Isaiah wrote, "A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it.

**C: It shall belong to those who walk on the way."**

P: Isaiah wrote, "The ransomed of the LORD shall return

**C: and come to Zion with singing."**

P: Let us pray.

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can open:

**C: Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death. Amen.**

Three Advent candles are lit during the Opening Hymn.



1 In this Ad - vent, broth - ers, sis - ters, Let us pause and  
2 Joy - ful - ly, O faith - ful breth - ren, Look and see what  
so pre - pare That we may greet Christ, our Sav - ior,  
God has done. When He walked this earth of mis - 'ry,  
Here in wor - ship and in prayer. He came  
Christ turned dark - ness in - to light. Man - y  
once, ful - fill - ing prom - ise, And He  
blind, lame, deaf, and lep - rous Had their  
shall come back a - gain. Dai - ly comes He, Word In -  
lives changed sud - den - ly. On the Last Day shall cre -  
car - nate, In our hearts and minds to reign.  
a - tion Be re - newed e - ter - nal - ly.

Stand

## LEAD US TO YOUR LIGHT

*The soloist introduces the refrain. Then the congregation repeats the refrain and sings it again as indicated. The soloist sings the verses.*



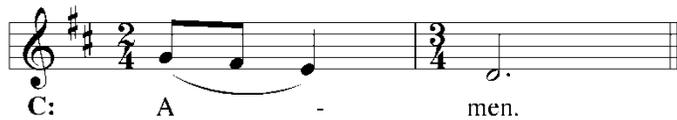
Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark - ness.  
Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber,  
Banish the darkness of night. **Refrain.**

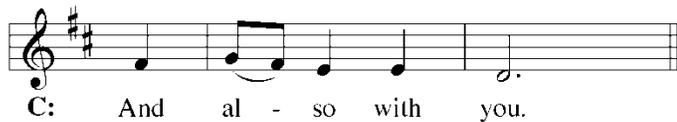
Child of the light and love beyond all telling,  
Fill our hearts with wonder and praise. **Refrain.**

## GREETING

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



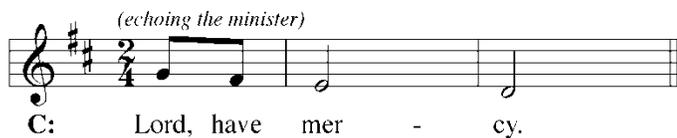
P: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.



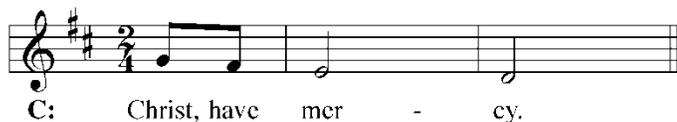
## LORD, HAVE MERCY

P: The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers His grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for His mercy.

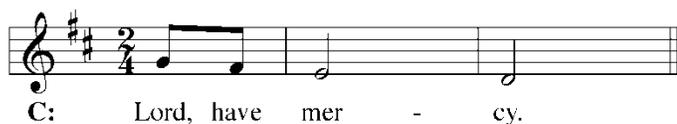
P: Lord Jesus, You came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord, have mercy.



P: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.



P: You will come in glory with salvation for Your people. Lord, have mercy.



P: May almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

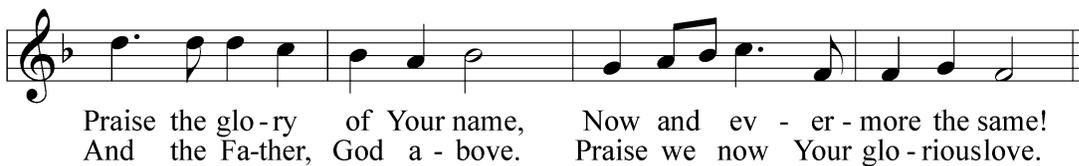
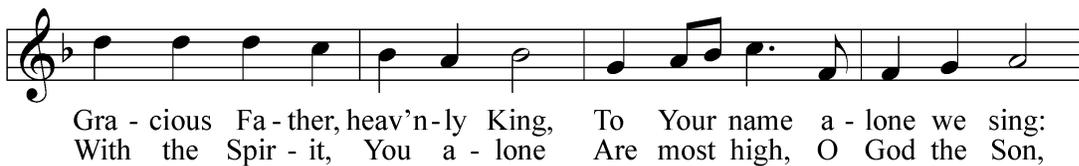


## ABSOLUTION

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.** (*spoken*)

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



## Prayer of the Day

P: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of Your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with Your light; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.** (*spoken*)

*The First Lesson: ISAIAH 35:1-10 (The coming of the Messiah would change everything. A world destroyed by sin is filled with sorrow and sighing. But things are not always what they seem: A desert is a latent pool; thirsty ground is a future streambed; the blind are future seers, and the lame future leapers. Our certain knowledge that the earth is the Lord's and that He controls everything in it gives us patience and courage to wait for God to make what we see match what we know. Be strong, do not fear; your God will come. His promise to come strengthens feeble hands and fearful hearts. He will come with vengeance and retribution to redress the wrong and with redemption and rejoicing for God's people. Jesus fulfilled these words of prophecy in His acts of ministry so that God's people could see how near God's kingdom had come!)*

<sup>1</sup> The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup> it will burst into bloom;  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.  
<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;  
<sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts,  
“Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
He will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
He will come to save you.”  
<sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.  
<sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.  
<sup>7</sup> The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.  
<sup>8</sup> And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that Way.  
The unclean will not journey on it;  
wicked fools will not go about on it.  
<sup>9</sup> No lion will be there,  
nor any ravenous beast;  
they will not be found there.  
But only the redeemed will walk there,  
<sup>10</sup> and those the LORD has rescued will return.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away. (NIV 2011)

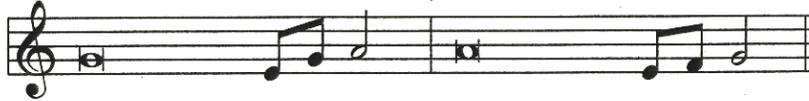
*Psalm of the Day:* **Psalm 146**

*Refrain*



I will praise your name for - ev-er, my King and my God.

*Psalm tone*



Praise the LORD, O my soul.\*  
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,\*  
in mortal men, who cannot save.

Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,\*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

**Refrain**

The LORD gives food to the hungry,\*  
the LORD sets prisoners free.

The LORD gives sight to the blind,\*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

The LORD watches over the outcast\*  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow.

The LORD remains faithful forever.\*  
He upholds the cause of the oppressed.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
As it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Refrain**

***The Second Lesson: JAMES 5:7-10** (Knowing what we do about Christ's coming kingdom, we want it now. God's encouragement, however, is for us to be patient. A farmer's fields may look fallow or dead, but things are not always what they seem. The seed waits inside the earth for the rains and then bursts forth to life. When Christians face persecution or suffering, life can seem like a fallow field. While we wait for the rain, we struggle with questions and doubts. James reminds us that the fallow parts of our lives are simply waiting for God's timing to bring forth fruit in our lives. The Christian patiently waits for the Lord's coming, when what we see will finally match what we know.)*

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup> You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. <sup>9</sup> Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

<sup>10</sup> Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. (NIV 2011)

*Verse of the Day:* Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV)

**Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus!**  
**Hear Thy people as they pray,**  
**For the herald's voice awakes us,**  
**Calls us to prepare the way.**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**Anxiously we wait the Day! (CW 29)**

*The Gospel Lesson: MATTHEW 11:2-11* (Things were not what they seemed. John languished in prison for preaching righteousness. When he saw the works of Jesus questions rose in his mind and doubt filled the hearts of his followers. John knew that Jesus was the Christ, but where were the acts of judgment promised? Why did John look like a failure and the wicked look like they were winning? John sends his disciples to the right place, to Jesus. When we take our doubts and questions to Jesus, He drives the darkness from our hearts and fills us with light. Jesus pointed to His works as signs from God fulfilling the words of the prophet and marking Him as the Coming One. Jesus was far more than He appeared to be: He was the Messiah who makes the blind see, the dead live and the poor evangelized. Jesus then points to John and shows greatness hiding behind the cross and persecution. Though John did not seem it, he was the second Elijah and a prophet without peer.)

<sup>2</sup> When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup> to ask Him, "Are You the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

<sup>4</sup> Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup> Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of Me."

<sup>7</sup> As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup> If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. <sup>9</sup> Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written:

"I will send my messenger ahead of You,  
who will prepare your way before You."

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

*Hymn of the Day:* CW 14 "Arise, O Christian People"

*Sermon Text:* Psalm 146

Praise the LORD.

Praise the LORD, my soul.

<sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

<sup>3</sup> Do not put your trust in princes,

in human beings, who cannot save.

<sup>4</sup> When their spirit departs, they return to the ground;

on that very day their plans come to nothing.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the LORD their God.

<sup>6</sup> He is the Maker of heaven and earth,

the sea, and everything in them—

He remains faithful forever.

<sup>7</sup> He upholds the cause of the oppressed

and gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets prisoners free,

<sup>8</sup> the LORD gives sight to the blind,

the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,

the LORD loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the foreigner

and sustains the fatherless and the widow,

but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> The LORD reigns forever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD.

### A Creedal Hymn

**Creator of all things that are, the tiny atom, mighty star—  
“Let there be light!” a voice was heard, the Father’s all-creating Word.  
That Word made flesh with us to dwell is Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Our voices here combine to praise our God, divine!**

**By God the Holy Ghost conceived, from Mary human form received,  
With us He lived, for us He died, by Pontius Pilate crucified.  
Raised from the dead victorious, this is Christ Jesus, God with us!  
Our many voices, one, sing praise to God the Son!**

**The Spirit of the Lord is sent, active in word and sacrament,  
To bind the Church below, above, in cords of sin-forgiving love  
Till, raised from death, we e’er shall dwell with Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
With Son and Father praise to Spirit now we raise. (CW 4)**

The Offering

The Offertory—“Coventry Carol”—played by New Life’s Tone Chime Choir

The Offering Hymn:

**In Bethlehem's manger God gave us His gift,  
A child to redeem us, our hearts to uplift.  
This gift let us cherish, this present so dear,  
And praise Jesus' goodness throughout the new year.**

**Our own gifts we lay now before the Christ-child  
To worship in wonder the one Undeified.  
The richest of treasures would not be enough  
To thank Him for giving His own gift of love. (tune “Away in a Manger)**

The Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.**

P: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us strong in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us Your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

The Benediction

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

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

P: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the Son who saved us and shall return to welcome us home, and the Holy Spirit who creates and nourishes the faith that Jesus is the Lord—be with you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

The Closing Hymn: CW 12 “Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes”

Announcements

## Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

*Cleaning this Week: Landenberger*

**Today—Worship Service at 9:30 AM**

Sunday School and Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Preschool Christmas Program at 1:30 AM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

**Friday—Men's Bible Class at 11:30 AM**

**Next Sunday—Communion Service at 9:30 AM**

Sunday School and Bible Class at 10:45 AM

NO Confirmation Class (Winter Break)

Volunteers are needed to bring something to eat and drink for fellowship on Sunday mornings. A new sheet has been posted for the new year. Thanks to those who have signed up!

Adult Bible Class will meet in the New Life Café this morning at 10:45 AM. Class is using the *Growing in Grace* catechism curriculum. Today's lesson will cover the three-fold office of Christ.

If you like to purchase a poinsettia to adorn the Lord's chancel on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, please sign-up on the sheet in the lower level. Cost for each poinsettia is \$8. Checks can be made to Kelly Daugherty.

At the Branch Connection Christmas party, the ladies put together jars of cookie mix for making homemade cookies and bars. Jars will go for a suggested donation of \$10 each and the proceeds will be added to the Sunday School mission money to support the WELS in Novosibirsk, Russia. Jars are available for purchase in the fellowship hall after church this morning. The jars make great Christmas gifts for friends and co-workers.

Offering envelopes for 2020 have been assigned and are located on the table next to the New Life Café. Included in the packet is an updated Endowment flier.

Included in your bulletin this morning is a postcard that can be used to invite a friend to church for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services. A 70 cent stamp is needed if you drop it in the mail.

### UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES—

- **Christmas Eve Children's Candlelight Service (Dec. 24) at 6:30 PM**
- **Christmas Day Worship Service (Dec. 25) at 10:30 AM**

**Our Faithfulness to God's Word  
Last Sunday—52**

