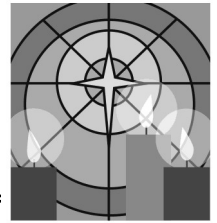


St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill

December 12, 2021

Please tune to 87.9 FM



THIRD SUNDAY
OF
Advent

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,
**in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that
your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of
self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your
children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of
your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
☩ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal prom-
ise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
Amen.

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH** *Light One Candle (v 1, 2, 3)*

ELW #240

***GATHERING HYMN** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v 1, 2, 7, 8)*

ELW #257

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, **Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of
John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 85

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
²**You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin. Selah**
³You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
⁴**Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.**
⁵Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
⁶**Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?**
⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.
⁸**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.**
⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
¹⁰**Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**
¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.
¹²**The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**
¹³Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God,

which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go

***GOSPEL**

Luke 7:18-28

¹⁸ The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰ And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹ In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²² And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers[a] are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ²⁴ When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written, “‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’” ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”
The Word of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor George Rahn

HYMN OF THE DAY

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (v 1, 2, 4)

ELW #244

BAPTISM

Kaylee June Anderson

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition of the prayers ends with the following response:
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

***PEACE**

OFFERING HYMN*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (twice)***ELW #184*****OFFERTORY***Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow***ELW #885*****OFFERING PRAYER**

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS*p 153**

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (v 1, 2, 3)

ELW #484

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

Now may these precious gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen you and keep you in God's grace this day. **Amen**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

ELW #254

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

CHRISTMAS BAGS

It's time to start preparing for the Christmas Pageant and children's gift bags. Every year we give every child who worships with us on Christmas Eve a treat bag—a small gift to celebrate. The Sunday School has a collection basket in the back of church.



Congratulations to Colby & Mariah Seeker on the birth of their baby boy! Kohen Colby Seeker was born on Thursday, December 2nd and weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. Welcome little one!

Monday, December 13th

6:00PM Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 14th

6:30AM-8:00AM Food Pantry

Next Sunday, December 19th Advent 4

7:45AM Worship Service

9:00AM Sunday School



IN OUR *Thoughts and Prayers*

Our Church Family:

Mavis Smith	Janice Cordova	Sydney Wagner	Florence Bentke
Ella Ruemke	Gilbert Spinn	Helen Gaskamp	Emery Schulze
Cynthia Wilson	Verna Mae Sefcik	Linda King	Tom Bentke
Jerry Randermann	Mary Ann Luce	Connie Seward	Justin Reuter
Dorothy Wiesepepe	Charles "Dutch" Schulze	Marjorie Hohlt	Mary Longhofer
Clarence Moehlmann	A.G. "Doc" & Allene Holtkamp	Peggy & Milton Bosse	
John & Carol Haarmeyer			

Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries: Charlene Keller, Shae Westerfeld, Tessa Ring, Emily Seeker, Troy Giese, Linda King, Mildred Kuecker, Sherry Randermann, Lisa Finke, Kary Kuecker, Gerald Herrmann

Friends & Family:

Alyssa & Ezlyn Jones
Blake Bates
Carol Lieber
Christy Dallmeyer
Corrie Newland
Holly Haarmeyer Rodriquez
John Tuefel
Missy Goldmith
Shannon Wellmann

Please notify the church office of any prayer request by simply writing a note on the back of your attendance card. Thank you!

Bethlehem in Independence Live Nativity Scene

TONIGHT December 12th 6-8pm
Independence School House
9325 FM 390 E
Brenham, Texas 77833



LADIES OF THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

CHRISTMAS FUN AND FELLOWSHIP SOCIAL

Thursday, December 16, 2021 11 A.M.

Los Cabos Restaurant “Dutch treat”



Please sign up in the back of church by December 12th. We will have fun, games, prizes, laughter & Christmas blessings! We look forward to seeing you!

2022 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex!



Please note that if you did not pick up your envelopes in previous years they will not be out. We understand that many of you give online. Kindly send an email to prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com if you need help. Thank you!

**Altar
Flowers**
SIGN-UP



The 2022 Flower Chart has been posted in the Annex.
Please sign up for your altar flowers for next year!

REACHING YOUR CHURCH OFFICE

Email: prairiehillsecretary@gmail.com

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Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-4:00pm

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Church Council President Jon Westerfeld (979) 277-2471