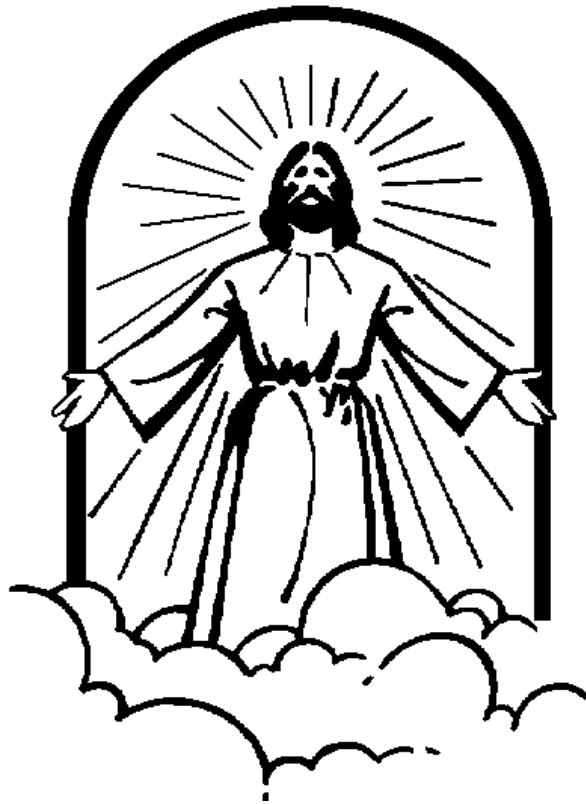


## The Third Sunday In Advent

December 16, 2018



*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” (Luke 2:14)*

**PRESERVICE MEDITATION:** Psalm 72 (page 138, The Lutheran Hymnal)

**HYMN 102** (The Lutheran Hymnal) *“Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”*

**The Order Of The Confessional Service** (pages 46-48, The Lutheran Hymnal)

**FIRST LESSON:** 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

<sup>3</sup> But even if our Gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, <sup>4</sup> whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them. <sup>5</sup> For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**Responsive Reading of Psalm 85**

**L:** LORD, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.

**C:** YOU HAVE FORGIVEN THE INIQUITY OF YOUR PEOPLE; YOU HAVE COVERED ALL THEIR SIN.

**L:** You have taken away all Your wrath; You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.

**C:** RESTORE US, O GOD OF OUR SALVATION, AND CAUSE YOUR ANGER TOWARD US TO CEASE.

**L:** Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

**C:** WILL YOU NOT REVIVE US AGAIN, THAT YOUR PEOPLE MAY REJOICE IN YOU.

**L:** Show us Your mercy, LORD, and grant us Your salvation.

**C:** I WILL HEAR WHAT GOD THE LORD WILL SPEAK, FOR HE WILL SPEAK PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE AND TO HIS SAINTS; BUT LET THEM NOT TURN BACK TO FOLLY.

**L:** Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

**C:** MERCY AND TRUTH HAVE MET TOGETHER; RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE HAVE KISSED.

**L:** Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

**C:** YES, THE LORD WILL GIVE WHAT IS GOOD;

*Ascension Lutheran Church*  
*A member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession*

*(clclutheran.org)*

*oS850 Wenmoth Road*

*Batavia, Illinois 60510-9711*

*(630) 879-9455*

ascensionbatavia.org – ascensionbatavia@gmail.com

Pastor: Terrel Kesterson – Organist: Peggy Kesterson

Ascension Lutheran is a family of Christians  
intent on sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and His victory over death

L: and our land will yield its increase.

C: RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL GO BEFORE HIM, AND SHALL MAKE HIS FOOTSTEPS  
OUR PATHWAY.

SECOND LESSON – Matthew 1:18-25 *rise*

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. <sup>20</sup> But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” <sup>24</sup> Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, <sup>25</sup> and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

THE NICENE CREED (page 5, Worship Supplement)

HYMN 647 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “*O Little Town Of Bethlehem*”

SERMON: Micah 5:2-5a

### “HEAVENLY PEACE”

2 **“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, from everlasting.”** <sup>3</sup> Therefore He shall give them up, until the time *that* she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And He shall stand and feed *His flock* in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; and they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup> and this *One* shall be peace.



OFFERTORY (page 16, Worship Supplement)

Psalm 51:10-12

The Offering from grateful hearts

HYMN 103 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “*To Shepherds As They Watched By Night*”

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH, & THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT (page 17, Worship Supplement)

O LORD, NOW LET YOUR SERVANT – *Nunc Dimittis sung* (page 20, WS) Luke 2:29-32

THANKSGIVING (page 21, Worship Supplement) *sung* Luke 7:50; Psalm 100:2

BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24-26

HYMN 646 (The Lutheran Hymnal) “*Silent Night! Holy Night!*”

\*\*\*\*

WELCOME, VISITORS! Please leave a record of your visit in our guest book in the narthex. TODAY our usher is Rick Louderman. In our Bible Study we’re on Revelation 9:12. NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER SERVICE: 3:00 PM; BATAVIA REHAB CENTER

SERVICE: 4:00 PM.

FRIDAY: NORTH AURORA CARE CENTER BIBLE STUDY: 10:10 AM.

SUNDAY: WORSHIP: 10:00 AM; SUNDAY SCHOOL & BIBLE STUDY: 11:15 AM.

NEXT SUNDAY our usher is Greg Suwanski. NEXT SUNDAY is our CHRISTMAS READING AND CAROL SERVICE, followed by a POTLUCK. (Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex.) (No Sunday School and Bible Study next Sunday).

ON CHRISTMAS EVE, ONE WEEK FROM MONDAY, we have a SERVICE at 7:30 PM.

DECEMBER 25: No service on Christmas Day.

ASCENSION FRUITS OF FAITH: Our offering for our midweek Advent service on December 5 was \$390.00, and our attendance was 6. Our offering last Sunday was \$810.00 (needed each week: \$1,157.00); and our attendance was 19. Our General Fund balance as of last Sunday was \$4,458.00. Total outstanding unpaid bills: -\$7,228.00 (mainly from church mortgage payments and Cooperative Budget Plan offerings to the CLC).

UPCOMING DATES:

Tuesday, January 1: New Year’s Day service: 10:00 AM

Sunday, January 13: Council meeting

Sunday, January 27: Voters meeting

CLC NEWS: Our Redeemer’s Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN, has called Pastor Edward Starkey of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Corpus Christi, TX. Bethel Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has called Pastor Richard Kanzenbach of Morning Star Lutheran Church, Fairchild, WI, Peace With God Lutheran Church, Onalaska, WI, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Millston, WI.

A CHRISTMAS CARD from the Kestersons is in your MAILBOX.