



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

Something New This Christmas
The Prosperity of Abundant Life

Each time Christmas comes around, we hope for something new. It may not be a gift or an object; it may be a new, deeper understanding of what God is up to sending Jesus among us.

In this season, let's look for something new. Not something that can be bought or sold, but an ongoing transformation of our daily life through the One who comes to us at Christmas, and the One who will come again at the culmination of time. Jesus is coming, and he will redefine our notions of power, position, prosperity, perfection, and priorities. We'll discover what new thing Jesus is doing in us and through us

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Every dry and barren place on the globe will bloom wildflowers of every kind; it will be as if the earth is singing out loud with great joy.

The glory of God will be on display; brilliant color and joyous song for all the world to see and hear.

This One who is coming will strengthen weak hands and firm up feeble knees. To those living in fear, they will clearly hear, "Be strong! Fear not!"

The One who is coming will seek us and save us.

Eyes that are closed will be opened. Senses that are dulled will be completely alive. Bodies that are weary will rise and run like a deer. Those whose voice has been silent will sing for joy.

Water will bubble up in the middle of the desert. The scorching sand will become a healing pool. A holy highway will emerge running right through the middle of this wilderness. On this road everyone is safe, and no one can get lost.

This is the highway of our God with whom we gather to worship, who is Three in One: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

HYMN *Prepare the Royal Highway* #264

Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!

Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring.

All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.

His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:

Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God, we long for a world in which all people see, hear, walk, and are healed of every disease. We know that Jesus is the coming Messiah, and his very presence brings this new Kingdom reality among us. We know that you are a God who loves us and cares for us, and hears our prayers of confession.

We admit that our current reality is not what you have dreamed for your world. Our very nature is bound by sin, and we cannot free ourselves. The trinkets of the world rust in our hands. All that we have hoped in is decaying and dying. The things that we have trusted are broken and shattered. Forgive us.

Silence for reflection

God, we give you thanks and praise for the cross of Christ and the open tomb of resurrection morning. Jesus Christ is the one who is able to bring new eyesight, hearing, strength and healing. Through Jesus

Christ your sins are forgiven. He is the source of abundant life, the One the world is waiting for, the One who has come among us, and the One who will come again.

We give you thanks and praise! We honor you! We worship you!

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy. Give us patience.

Christ, have mercy. Give us patience and peace.

Lord, have mercy. Give us patience and peace for the living of these days.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: God, your abundant life has already begun.

You are creating a highway straight through the wilderness of our lives. On this road we cannot get lost and we are always safe. In our realm, what seems impossible is met by your new resurrection reality. What seems dead is now teeming with life. Come to us and be the great giver of a new kind of prosperity, in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN

He Came Down

#253 vs 1-2

**He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

He Came Down

#253 vs 3-4

**He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. 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.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 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."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 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; 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.

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.

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. 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.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 146:5-10

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

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

who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free. The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

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

The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to

come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

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? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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.'

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."

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"The Position of Righteousness"

HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#254

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.**

**Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again;

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

We give our offerings to our abundant and loving God who desires that all people live in peace with God and with one another. When we give generously, our gifts have the power to transform the world we live in. We are ordinary people who have the privilege and calling to partner with God to bring peace on earth. We become the heart and hands of Christ when we serve others' needs. Thank you for your generosity, all who are giving a gift now and everyone who gives automatically or in other ways. The ushers will now receive our offerings

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Let us pray. God,
you are opening our eyes and unstopping our ears. You are renewing our strength and healing the broken places in our world. We are thankful that we are part of your restoring work in the world. Join these gifts to your dream for the world. May they become visible signs of your gracious love, in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN *I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve* #271

**I am so glad each Christmas Eve, the night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and angels sang on earth.**

**The little child in Bethlehem, he was a king indeed!
For he came down from heav'n above to help a world in need.**

**He dwells again in heaven's realm, the Son of God today;
and still he loves his little ones and hears them when they pray.**

**And so I love each Christmas Eve, and I love Jesus too;
and that he loves me ev'ry day I know so well is true.**

DISMISSAL

Now go from this place to live in the new kind of abundance and prosperity that can only come from Jesus Christ. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Okay, we will. Thanks be to God!

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Please Pray For...

**Those who are grieving losses of any sort, including the friends and family of Kathy (sister of Mikkey T.) and Pastor Martin Haase

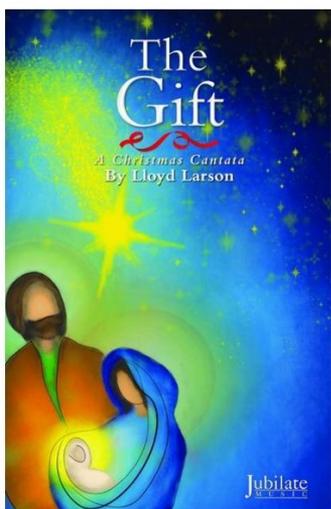
**Those recovering from surgeries, and those who are ill or hospitalized including Leon Carpenter; Ken (Brother of Cathy Dahl); Ingrid James; Bob Tesch; Rose Bintliff (Friend of the Kaisers); Keith Buchholz (Brother-in-Law of Judy Stanley); Ruth Henricksen (Mother of Rebecca Kaiser); Ashley; LeAnn (Friend of Mikkey T.); Seth and Brenda (Friends of the Baschnagels); Mike; Abbot (Great-Grandson of Lane); Dorothy Wall (Friend of Toni Ramsey); Kirt Burt (Friend of the Kaisers)

**Those with on-going concerns, including Chuck Baschnagel (Father of Mike); Kimber Kaiser; David Vining; Peg Tesch; Glenyce (Cousin of Carla Oerter); Reece Ullerich (Friend of Linda Boll); Gary McKean (Nephew of Lane Pine); Marie Kennedy; Iris Brimer; Clay Walberg; Rod Dikoff (Cousin of Roger); Suzan Heidelberger; Chelle Schefcik; Barbara (Aunt of Carmen Lakner); David Henriksen (Brother of Rebecca Kaiser)

**For our military members and their families

**For our leaders at all levels

**For our siblings in Christ, our friends and enemies, both near and far



Enjoy this year's Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 18, 2022

3:00 pm

Hermosa Adventist Church

14313 Broken Spoke Place
Hermosa SD 57744

Christmas is a season of celebration, gratitude, and giving - this cantata focuses on the ultimate Christmas gift, Jesus. Brimming with beloved carols and exciting new songs, *The Gift* traces the ageless Christmas story through the lens of gratitude and our response to the Greatest Gift.

Pastor Deb Grismer, Director
Chantry Nelson, Accompanist



The Mission Committee is excited to announce we will be working with LSS of Rapid City and the Hermosa School again this year to provide Christmas gifts for local children as well as the youth who are a part of the Arise program. There are several ways you can participate. Thank you for helping children to experience God's love at Christmas time.

How to participate in the 2022 Local Angel Tree Mission

1. Donate financially to the OSL Angel Tree Mission of the Moment beginning now through December 31st. Cash or checks (write Mission on the memo line) can be mailed or dropped off at the church. Give online through Tith.ly (drop down menu has Mission of the Moment option.) These donations will be used to shop for gifts on tags not taken from the tree. (Pastor Deb will shop for any last-minute gift requests we receive.)
2. Take an ornament off the tree in the narthex. Purchase the gift and return it wrapped or unwrapped by December 11. Please attach the tag to the gift. Please only purchase what is on the tag. Each child has multiple tags so they will receive multiple gifts. The gift list provided by the parents have been separated onto the tags so that each child in the family receives the same number of gifts. If you would like an ornament mailed to you, contact Josie or Pastor Deb. Please do not include your name or any other gift tag on the wrapped gift.
3. The Mission Committee will be wrapping the gifts on Monday, December 12th beginning at 10 am. All are invited to come help wrap. Wrapping supplies will be furnished.

Something New This Christmas

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

You Are Invited to celebrate Christmas with us as we experience *Something New This Christmas* through music, scripture, candles, prayers and Holy Communion.

A Quiet Christmas Service

Candlelight Service with Communion

All are welcome at this special service designed for those who are seeking a quieter service to celebrate Christmas.

Thursday Dec. 22nd 6:30pm

Christmas Eve Services

Candlelight Service with Communion

Saturday, Dec 24th 4:00 & 6:00 pm

Christmas Day Services

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Sunday Dec 25th 9:30am

All services are in person and livestreamed on Our Savior's Lutheran Church Facebook page and YouTube Channel

Please email or call with any questions

www.osl@mt-rushmore.net

605-255-4662