

**Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday
15 December 2024**

**HIGHWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH
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PW: highwood

Zoom by Telephone Dial 1-587-328-1099

Meeting ID: 411 134 0591 # Passcode: 592794 #



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**+ HOLY COMMUNION – SETTING FIVE +**

**ORGAN PRELUDE** “*Piece d'orgue*” J.S. Bach

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptise you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Luke 3:15-16)

**HYMN** Saviour of the Nations Come (verse 1 - 4) **No. 263**

**ADVENT CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P** In the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**C Amen.**

P The Lord of Advent tells us to be watchful for his coming, keeping our lamps lighted and our hearts clean. Therefore, let us confess to the Lord.

*Silence for reflection.*

P God and Father of all:

**C We prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, confessing our sins, confessing our attraction to a godless world that does not know Christ. Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts, and keep us faithful for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of + Christ, who came and will come again.

**C Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** Hark, the Glad Sound!

**No. 239**

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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**ADVENT KYRIE**

A O Lord, have mercy and come to us.

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

A 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.**

A O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

**C Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

A O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

**C Come quickly to deliver us.**

A Come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

**C Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**FIRST LESSON**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The 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. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The 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 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I 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. At 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.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

*Sung*

**Isaiah 12:2-6**

Surely God is | my salvation;

I will trust, and will not | be afraid,

for the LORD GOD is my strength |and my might;

he has become | my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells | of salvation.

And you will say in that day: Give thanks| to the LORD,

call | on his name;

make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name | is exalted.

Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done| gloriously;  
let this be known in | all the earth.

Shout aloud and sing for joy, | O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy| One of Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son,  
and to the | Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the begin-| ning, is now  
and will be forever. | Amen.

## **SECOND LESSON**      **Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Please stand as you are able.*

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## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**      **Luke 3:7-18**

**C Glory to you, O Lord**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?"

He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY** People Look East

**No. 248**

**THE APOSTLES CREED**

Inside Front Cover and Page 105

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** *Please stand as you are able.*

The response to "Lord, in your mercy" is "**hear our prayer.**"

A As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

A For choirs, hymn writers, and musicians, we give you thanks, Holy One. Fill us with your song of joy. Open us to proclaim your glory in our singing, speaking, and silence. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For peace to ring out in our hearts and in our homes; for mercy and forgiveness to reign in every community; bring an end to war in Ukraine, and all countries experiencing the terror of war, Give us this joy, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For those who are oppressed; for soldiers and veterans and their families; for those who need access to medical care; for those

who are ill and those who mourn. We pray for Anna Berwanger, Simret Bogale, Chrystine Cuch, Mariette Erasmus, Adeline Erick, Ruth Gummo, Dolores Hollowell, Donna Harbor, Genevieve Janssen, Julie Janssen Downe, Eleanora Lahoda, Fay Larsen, Amy Lynch, Jean McCowan, Mark Mutschlechner, Bruce and Judith Nagel, Jerry Rasmuson and family, Jim and Joyce Rasmussen, David Sr. and Joan Richardson, Vern Schnell, Rose Sinclair, Sam Skogen, those we name aloud ... and those we carry in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For foster families opening their homes; for grandparents raising grandchildren; for single parents struggling to make ends meet; for expectant parents who now grieve. Give strength and comfort, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For those who serve in the holy catholic Church:

- for the Alberta Synod, the synod staff, pastors, people, and Bishop Trish Schmermund
- for East Central Area Leadership Team, pastors, people and Dean, Rev. Calvin Skriver
- for our Synod Campus Ministries and especially for Rev. Margaret Koizumi, Chaplain for the University of Calgary, and Mount Royal University, and for Rev. Peter Chau
- for retired bishops, pastors, deacons, and other retired church leaders
- for St. Andrews Anglican/Zion Lutheran, Colinton, and St Michael Lutheran, Mystery Lake
- the students, faculty, leaders, and staff of the four IELCO schools in Colombia
- for the pastors, pilots and staff of the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots
- the bishops, pastors and people of the Lutheran Church of Cameroon, Africa
- for Bishop Sani Ibrahim Azar, pastors and people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
- for the officers and people of the Salvation Army of Canada

- for the pastors and people of the Anglican, Mennonite, and Moravian Churches

For all these, Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

A For all virtually gathered for this service, and those attending to the care of others and to beneficial endeavours that keep them away from worshipping, Lord, in your mercy,

**C hear our prayer.**

P Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you those prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

**C Amen.**

THE PEACE

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OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion”  
by Kenneth Kosche

*Setting of the altar and reception of the Offerings.*

*Please be seated.*

OFFERING PRAYER FOR ADVENT

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A God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Saviour and Lord.

**C Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (III)

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Version II)

Pg. 163

THE FRACTION

P This is the body of the One foretold by the prophets. This is the blood of Him who will return for you at the end of time.

**C Come to us now, O Lord, in the breaking of bread. As once you were born in a manger in Bethlehem, come to us again in the manger of our hands and hearts. Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD

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THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

*Please be seated. Assistants and those in need commune first.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

All Earth Is Hopeful **No. 266**

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness **No. 251**

TABLE BLESSING *Please stand as you are able.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A We pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

BENEDICTION Pg. 114

SENDING HYMN Joy to the World **No. 267**

DISMISSAL Pg. 115

P Go in peace...

C **Thanks be to God!**

ORGAN POSTLUDE "*Praeludium in F*" D. Buxtehude



WELCOME to all gathered here today. Join us for refreshments and conversation downstairs after worship, Questions? Ask one of today's servants or speak with the pastor.

WE THANK TODAY'S SERVANTS

Usher: Cam Schneider, Helga Weissenberger

Lector: Cam Schneider

Assistant: Walter Anderson

Altar Guild: Clarice Rasmuson, Jennifer Hanson

Refreshments: David Richardson, Audrey Sribney

Zoom Host: Phil Tang, Ahmed Conteh



**OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE**

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Last week     | 8 December  | Budget 2024 |
| Current       | \$ 3,315.55 | \$2,911     |
| Benevolence   | \$ 0        |             |
| Building Fund | \$ 10       |             |
| Other         | \$ 2,085    |             |
| Attendance    | 45          |             |

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK**

|           |        |          |                                                   |
|-----------|--------|----------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Today     | 15 Dec | 11:45 PM | Fellowship and Refreshments                       |
|           |        | 2:00 PM  | CFMA Worship                                      |
| Monday    | 16 Dec | 7:00 PM  | Council Meeting                                   |
|           |        | 7:00 PM  | 12 Step Program                                   |
| Tuesday   | 17 Dec | 6:30 PM  | Never Alone Peer Support                          |
|           |        | 7:00 PM  | Elders Meeting                                    |
| Wednesday | 18 Dec | 9:30 AM  | 12 Step Program                                   |
|           |        | 7:00 PM  | 12 Step Program                                   |
| Friday    | 20 Dec | 9:00 AM  | Filming in church until 3:00 PM                   |
|           |        | 7:00 PM  | 12 Step Program                                   |
| Saturday  | 21 Dec | 9:00 AM  | House of Hope Worship                             |
| Sunday    | 22 Dec | 10:30 AM | Fourth Sunday of Advent<br>Holy Communion Service |

**NEWSLETTER** – The December issue of the Highwood Highlights and the January Activity Calendar are available in your boxes and in the narthex.

**SCARVES, MITTENS, HATS, AND SOCKS** – “Thank You” to all who have helped fill the boxes and the Mitten Tree. There’s still room for more items. Today is the last day for donations.

**ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS** – Sunday, 15 December 2024 is the last day for financial donations for our adoptive family. We have been able to purchase all the gifts. Thank you for those who have supported this endeavor. This is a very worthwhile cause and outreach, and your support is much appreciated.

**COUNCIL MEETING** – Monday 16 December at 7:00 PM.

**ELDER'S MEETING** – Tuesday 17 December at 6:00 PM.

**FILMING IN THE CHURCH** – on Friday 20 December 2024, a young adult Christian outreach group and their film crew is using the Sanctuary. Please avoid the church from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** – Donations are gratefully accepted and can be added to your offering envelope.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** – join us at 6:00 PM on Tuesday 24 December as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord in a joint worship service with the Calgary Filipino Methodist Church. Pr. Mike is preaching.

**CHRISTMAS DAY** – our service begins at 10:30 AM on Wednesday 25 December 2024.

**END OF YEAR DONATIONS** – 2024 is quickly coming to an end. It's time to consider those year-end donations, which in turn benefit you on your taxes. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our church throughout the year.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** – If you need a ride to church, contact Elizabeth Anderson 587 897 0548 or Bill Strand 403 239 9894

**MAILBOXES** – Please check your mailbox downstairs. Many items remain uncollected.

|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b> | Fourth Sunday of Advent Year C |
| Micah 5:2-5a                | Psalms 80:1-7                  |
| Hebrews 10:5-10             | Luke 1:39-45                   |

**Please Note**

**Angle parking along Northmount Drive across from the church is no longer allowed due to a recent complaint and subsequent enforcement by the City of Calgary.**