

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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First Sunday in Advent—Zechariah's Advent

December 3, 2017

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. 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.

Before Service Prayer: Lord God, heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word, Your voice to us still today. When our doubts and fears and busyness make us deaf to Your voice, makes us mute that we may listen to You, hear Your love and believe. Help us to treasure Your Word and drive all fear from us, that we may live in You alone, and rightly celebrate the birth of Your Son; through the same Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Today's Service: "Prepare! Prepare!" GIA gathering rite and Service of the Word, NPH, reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.

Today's Theme: Zechariah's Advent begins with startling news.

Pastor's Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes our patient anticipation of Christ's coming which draws nearer and nearer.

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

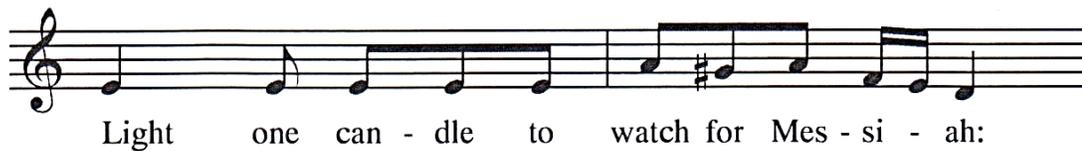
C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: Jesus, let Your light scatter the darkness

C: and illumine Your Church.

One Advent candle is lit during the Opening Hymn.

Opening Hymn: "Light One Candle"



PREPARE! PREPARE!

The choir introduces the refrain and sings verse 1. The congregation sings the refrain after verses 1 & 2 and sings it as indicated, noting that the refrain is sung twice, dropping the ending "Oh," the second time through.

Pre- pare! Pre- pare the way of the Lord.

Pre - pare! Pre - pare the way of the Lord, oh,

Pre - pare! Pre - pare the way of the Lord. The

Lord our God is com - ing soon. Oh,

Soloist: Prepare the way, the way of the Lord. Ready your hearts. Oh, the Lord our God is coming soon!
(Refrain)

Soloist: Make straight the path, level the hills, lift up the gates. Oh, the Lord our God is coming soon!
(Refrain)

INVOCATION

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

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

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.
(congregation echoes the minister by singing)

Lord, have mer - cy.

P: You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ have mercy. (*congregation echoes the minister by singing*)



Christ, have mer - cy.

P: You will come in glory with salvation for Your people. Lord have mercy. (*congregation echoes the minister by singing*)



Lord, have mer - cy.

P: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen (*congregation echoes the minister by singing*)



A - men.

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.



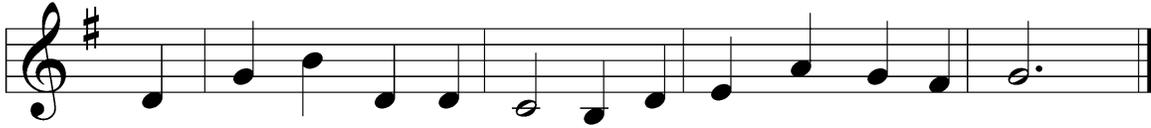
1 Re - jice, re - jice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f' rings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The bride-groom is at hand.
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by Your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The First Lesson: Genesis 18:9-14 (*The Angel of the Lord gives the startling news that within one year, Abram and Sarah would have a son in their old age.*)

⁹“Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him.

“There, in the tent,” he said.

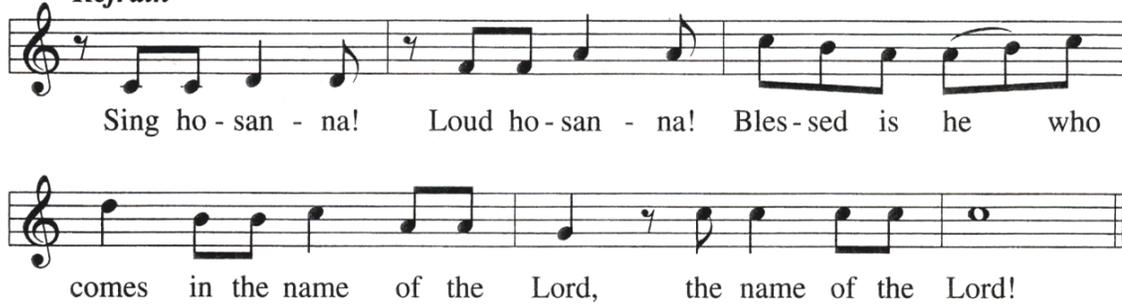
¹⁰ Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

¹³ Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.” (NIV 2011)

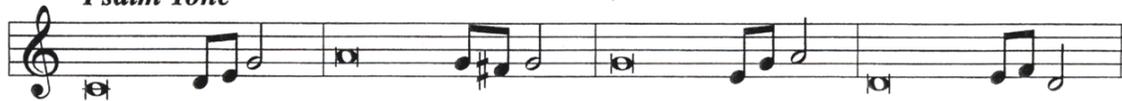
Psalm of the Day: Psalm 24

Refrain



Sing ho - san - na! Loud ho - san - na! Bles - sed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord, the name of the Lord!

Psalm Tone



Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you 'ancient doors,
that the King of glory 'may come in.
Who is this King of 'glory?
The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in 'battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you 'ancient doors,
that the King of glory 'may come in.
Who is He, this King of 'glory?
The Lord Almighty-He is the King of 'glory.

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son
and to the Holy 'Spirit,
as it was in the be'ginning,
is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

Refrain

The Second Lesson: Acts 12:7-11 (Peter receives the startling news that his life is not over. God still had work for Peter to do.)

⁷ Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

⁸ Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. ⁹ Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. ¹⁰ They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

¹¹ Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent His angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen." (NIV 2011)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia. (Revelation 22:20)

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: Luke 1:5-25a (Zechariah is startled by the angel Gabriel who brings him the news of a child in his old age, who will be the forerunner of the Messiah.)

⁵In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

¹⁸Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

¹⁹The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. ²⁰And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

²¹Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. ²²When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

²³When his time of service was completed, he returned home. ²⁴After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. ²⁵“The Lord has done this for me,” she said. (NIV 2011)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day: CW 2 “Savior of the Nations, Come”

The Sermon

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 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.

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: **CW 9 “Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes”**

Announcements

Our Father’s Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Dressel

Today—Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Advent Fest Supper at 5:30 PM

Advent Festival Worship Service at 7:00 PM

NO Confirmation Class

Monday—Pastors’ Circuit Meeting in Lindenhurst at 9:30 AM

Tuesday—Church Council at 7:00 PM

Wednesday—Men’s Bible Class at 11:30 AM

Next Sunday— Communion Service at 9:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class at 10:45 AM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

Adult Bible class is beginning a study of Islam. Bible class meets in the café at 10:45 AM.

Volunteers are needed to bring something to eat and drink for fellowship on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board in the lower level.

Advent Fest will be held TONIGHT! The evening begins with a pot luck meal at 5:30 PM. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the lower level. Then, after the meal, everyone works on an advent craft. An Advent Service of Nine Lessons and Carols follows at 7:00 PM. Plan on attending this wonderful evening which highlights the importance of the season.

The Branch Connection is having their annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 PM. Please bring a \$15 gift for the gift exchange and an appetizer to share. Punch will be provided.

Also, the ladies will be doing a service project to benefit “New Beginnings—A Home for Single Mothers” located in Milwaukee, WI. We will be putting together First Aid kits for the moms. **We are asking for specific items to be donated for the kits.** You will find sign-up sheets for both the party and the service project on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. ALL women of the congregation are encouraged to attend!

Upper Parking Lot Replacement

One of the facets of responsible Stewardship is the careful care of the gifts which God has provided us. As has been noted, the upper parking lot is nearing the end of its useful service life, and it is no longer cost-effective to continue patching it every year. The congregation approved the repaving project at the July 2017 Voter's meeting, and the Church Council has set a target of September 2018 to raise the necessary funds. Estimates we have received range from \$35-40,000 to grind off the top layer and resurface to over \$60,000 to tear it down to the gravel and completely rebuild.

The cost of this project is outside of our operating budget. The Council approved a motion to establish a separate "Parking Lot Fund" for donations to the project. Envelopes for this will be included in next year's offering packet, but there's no need to wait for these. Simply mark your check or envelope "Parking Lot" so our Treasurer can deposit it to the correct account. Gifts to replace the parking lot will need to be "above and beyond" normal gifts given to Christ.

This is, understandably, a huge undertaking. God has richly blessed similar efforts in the past, notably with our Debt Reduction and Building Fund campaigns, and we pray He will bless us as we embark on this one."

New, Online Giving Opportunity at New Life

One of the features that came with New Life's accounting software package is access to a secure, on-line giving portal. This allows anyone to give to our church using a credit card, debit card or ACH transfer (we're still working on PayPal). You can tag your gift as a one-time or recurring donation, endowment contribution, preschool tuition or parking lot gift - and also pay the credit card fee in advance if you so choose. Both an immediately printable and an eMailed receipt are generated for your records. Gifts are recorded directly into New Life's accounting software, which are then acknowledged by our Treasurer and Financial Secretary. If you wish, you may include a copy of your receipt in your offering envelope, or mark the back "online".

You may join us as we bravely face the 21st Century after our Lord's birth by clicking the "Give" button on our website, or going straight to <https://www.aplos.com/aws/give/NewLifeEvangelicalLutheranChurch/general>"

— John Lester, Stewardship Chairman

Upcoming Special Services

Advent Festival—Sunday, Dec. 3rd
Supper at 5:30 PM & Family Crafts
Worship Service at 7:00 PM
Christmas Eve Day Children's Service
Sunday, Dec. 24th at 9:30 AM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, Dec. 24th at 7:00 PM
Christmas Day Service
Monday, Dec. 25th at 10:30 AM
New Year's Eve Day Service
Sunday, Jan. 31st at 9:30 AM
NO New Year's Day Service

