



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2024

Prelude: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" – G. Krapf, "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" - Johannes Brahms

Words of welcome & Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

GATHERING

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (*You are invited to stand*)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, verses 1, 2, 3 (ELW 240)

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of mercy,

We confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

We confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

We confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**



Gathering Hymn- People, Look East (ELW 248)

Greeting (ELW page 156)

Kyrie 5 (ELW page 156)

Gloria- Now the Heavens Start to Whisper (ACS 901)



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with - in:
Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness shines the hope of com - ing day.
come to bless with fire and fra - grance hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom - ise, deep - ly plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!
Christ, the morn - ing star of splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim.
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
Heav - en's em - ber fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
Child who comes to grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

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.

WORD

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel Acclamation 5 (ELW page 160)

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **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. The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Homily- Rev. Sylvia Schmidt

Hymn of the Day- Freedom Is Coming! (ACS 903)

Affirmation of Baptism (ELW page 234)





Prayers of Intercession

Peace

Offering Prayer

MEAL

Dialog & Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy 5 (ELW page 162)

Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer (ELW page 163)

Lamb of God 5 (ELW page 164)

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn- O Come Emmanuel v. 5-6 (ELW 257)

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Hymn- Hark, the Glad Sound! (ELW 239)

Dismissal

Postlude: Old French Carol: "O Come, Divine Messiah" - Claude-Bénigne Balbastre

Those Serving the Servants Today

Presiding Minister	Rev. Sylvia Schmidt	Livestream Tech	Kevin Li
Minister of Music	Rachel Alfatt	Usher	-
Assisting Minister	Russell Collins	Communion Set-Up	Heidi & Aria
Cantor	Heidi Ackermann	Coffee Hour Hosts	Heather Robbie
Lector	Paul Schmidt		Michael Ray

