

Oak Valley Lutheran Church December 7

John Said Yes

PRELUDE “Today is the Day” “He Shall Reign Forever More”

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

L) The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L) Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C) Amen.

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

L) Long-expected God,

C) we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake for your kingdom to come. Free us from reluctance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

L) God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God’s own righteousness. In Jesus Christ, God has said “Yes” to us. In Jesus Christ ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C) Amen.

GATHERING HYMN “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

GREETING

L) The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C) And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES LITANY

L) We light two candles for two people: you and me.

C) The way of Jesus is not often the easy one,

L) And so we walk it together.

C) We light two candles to say YES to the invitation to walk the way of Jesus together.

CANDLELIGHTING SONG (TUNE OF JESUS LOVES ME #595)

Jesus loves me! This I now, for the Bible tells me so;
 We light candles on this day. God be with us, "yes" we pray.
 Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
 Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L) The Lord be with you **C) And also with you.**

L) Let us pray.... Lord God, **Prepare the way in us this Advent, that we might make space in our hearts for the arrival of your Son, our Savior, Amen.**

CHILDRENS MESSAGE

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L) The Word of the Lord **C) Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING Romans 15:4-13

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together

you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰ and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹ and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹² and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

L) The Word of the Lord **C) Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.

Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

L) The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 3rd Chapter.

C) Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

1 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' " 4 Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, 6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, 9 and do not presume 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. 10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing

floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

L) The Gospel of the Lord **C) Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “TRADING MY SORROWS”

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**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (LORD LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN)

L) In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

L) With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease (*especially*). Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

L) With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith (*especially Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, whom we commemorate today*). Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace, **C) hear our prayer.**

L) Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **C) Amen.**

PEACE

L) The peace of Christ be with you always. **C) And also with you.**

OFFERING

"I NEED A SILENT NIGHT"

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

L) Let us pray.... God of every good gift, **We offer what we have back to you, knowing that your son is the greatest gift we will ever receive. Grant us glad and generous hearts, ever and always, Amen.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

COMMUNION SONG (SPOKEN)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant
 us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ALL ARE WELCOME)

L) The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

C) Thanks be to God.

**** Bread is Gluten Free. A Non Alcoholic option is in the center of the trays.**

COMMUNION "EMMANUEL GOD IS WITH US"

L) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C) Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L) Let us pray.... Christ Jesus, **You have fed us with love incarnate, and we are utterly changed. Send us forth from this meal to be forces for change in this world, as we find the YES within each of us, Amen.**

BLESSING

L) May God bless you with courage, as you seek the YES within you; May Christ be born again in every risk you take for the sake of the world; And may the Holy Spirit remind you, again and again, that you are never alone, and that you are loved beyond measure.

C) Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Joy to the World , Unspeakable Joy"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.