

Word of God Lutheran Church  
Grow • Build • Serve



Our Mission:  
With God's help we are called to be a  
multi-generational traditional church, grounded in  
the Bible and focused on service in the community  
and mission outreach.

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

**ORDER OF SERVICE**  
**December 15, 2024**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

Advent • Christmas • Epiphany • Lent • Easter • **Pentecost**  
*Please refer to the green Lutheran Book of Worship hymnal for service.*

**ENTRANCE RITE**

Announcements

Advent Wreath Lighting and Devotional

Hymn "**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**" ..... WOV 630 v. 1-3

Call to worship chime

\* Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness ..... LBW 56

\* Entrance Hymn "**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**" ..... LBW 30

\* Greeting and Kyrie ..... LBW 57

\* The Lord be with you ..... LBW 62

\* Prayer of the Day

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

First Reading ..... Zephaniah 3:14–20

Psalm (Read Responsively) ..... Psalm 85

Second Reading ..... Philippians 4:4–7

\* Alleluia Verse ..... LBW 62

\* Gospel ..... Luke 7:18–35

Children's Sermon

Sermon

\* Hymn of the Day "**Comfort, Comfort Now My People**" ..... LBW 29

\* Apostles' Creed ..... LBW 65

\* Prayers ..... LBW 65

\* Share the Peace ..... LBW 66

**SHARING OF THE SACRAMENTAL MEAL**

Offering

Offertory ..... LBW 66

\* Offertory Prayer ..... LBW 67

\* Great Thanksgiving ..... LBW 68

\* Holy, Holy, Holy ..... LBW 69

\* Words of Institution ..... LBW 70

\* The Lord's Prayer ..... LBW 71

"Lamb of God" ..... LBW 72

† Communion

\* Blessing ..... LBW 72

\* Canticle "Lord Now You Let" ..... LBW 73

\* Prayer, Benediction, and Dismissal ..... LBW 74

\* Closing Hymn "**Hark, the Glad Sound!**" ..... LBW 35

\* Sending

\* Please stand as able

† All who are baptized and believe that Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine are invited to receive communion and assurance of God's forgiveness. *Children who have not been instructed in the sacrament should fold their hands to receive a blessing.*

## **Zephaniah 3:14–20**

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. <sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. <sup>18</sup> I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. <sup>19</sup> Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes.

## **Psalms 85**

<sup>1</sup> LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**<sup>2</sup> You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you covered all their sin.**

<sup>3</sup> You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.

**<sup>4</sup> Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us!**

<sup>5</sup> Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

**<sup>6</sup> Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?**

<sup>7</sup> Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.

**<sup>8</sup> Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.**

<sup>9</sup> Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
that glory may dwell in our land.

**<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

<sup>11</sup> Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**<sup>12</sup> Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.**

<sup>13</sup> Righteousness will go before him  
and make his footsteps a way.

### **Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



## **Luke 7:18–35**

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” <sup>24</sup>When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written, “‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’” <sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” <sup>29</sup>(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, <sup>30</sup>but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) <sup>31</sup>“To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? <sup>32</sup>They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’” <sup>33</sup>For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ <sup>34</sup>The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’” <sup>35</sup>Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you are physically unable to come to the altar, **communion** will be brought to you at your seat. Please let your usher know so he /she can tell the Pastor where you are seated.
- *Mark your calendars*, the **annual Congregational Meeting** is Sunday, January 12, following service. New Service Committee members will be elected at this meeting.
- The **Service Committee nominee bios** can be found on our website under the members resources tab.
- **Pathways 2 Bible Study** meets on Tuesday, December 17, at 7 PM. Please contact Andi Laaker at [wogfishstix@gmail.com](mailto:wogfishstix@gmail.com) for more information.
- *Please note*, the December 18 Midweek Advent Service, Lessons & Carols, will be led by our WoG youth and begin 1 hour earlier at 6:00 PM.
- **No children and youth Sunday School** on December 22 and December 29.
- Please join us for the **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** on Tuesday, December 24 at 6:00 PM. WoG's **Nativity of Our Lord Service** is at 10:15 AM on December 25.
- **Fish STIX Theater class** begins on Saturday, January 4, at 10 AM. Please contact Andi Laaker at [wogfishstix@gmail.com](mailto:wogfishstix@gmail.com) for more information.
- **New Member Reception** following service on January 5. Please take a moment to stop by the fellowship hall and introduce yourself.
- Our next **RLC Warehouse** service opportunity is Wednesday, January 8, at 9:00 AM, and the **RLC Mobile Food Pantry** is Thursday, December 19, at 9:00 AM. Please sign up on the bulletin tear-off or contact Sue Burnett at [suegburnett@att.net](mailto:suegburnett@att.net) for more information.
- The next **Midwest Food Bank** distribution will be Tuesday, December 17 (8 AM - 12 PM & 6 PM - 8 PM); Wednesday, December 18 (8 AM - 1:30 PM); and Thursday, December 19 (8 AM - 12 PM). Lunch is provided each day to all volunteers. Contact Joe Bowler at [ltcbowler@gmail.com](mailto:ltcbowler@gmail.com) or sign up on the bulletin tear-off.
- *Unless otherwise indicated, the **weekly announcement submission** deadline for the Sunday bulletin is the previous **Monday** at 11:00 AM. Please send all announcements to [woglutheran@gmail.com](mailto:woglutheran@gmail.com).*

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