

# Gathering Rite

## Third Sunday of Advent

Music chosen for the seasons of the church year has the capacity to set the tone for a particular celebration. This year during the Sundays of Advent we will use the Light a Candle in the Night as our Gathering Rite to set a tone of expectant preparation for Christ's coming.

The Choir sings verse 3 of Light a Candle in the Night

1. Light a can - dle in the night. Pre - pare the way for the  
 2. Light a can - dle in the night. Pre - pare the way for the  
 3. Light a can - dle in the night. Pre - pare the way for the  
 4. Light a can - dle in the night. Pre - pare the way for the

4  
 ho - ly Light: God with us, Em - man - u - el, e -  
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 ho - ly Light: God with us, Em - man - u - el, the

7 *f*  
 ter - nal hope with — us to dwell. Child of hope, come  
 Prince of Peace with — us to dwell. Child of peace, come  
 end - ing love with — us to dwell. Child of love, come  
 fount of joy with — us to dwell. Child of joy, come

10  
 in Your glo - ry, heav - en's gift, the won - drous sto - ry!  
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13  
 Mes - si - ah King shall come to earth. Pre -

16  
 pare your heart for His ho - ly birth.

Stand

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt..**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed you guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will..

C: **Amen.**

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever .

C: **Amen.**

### The Lighting of the Advent Candle

M: We light three Advent candles, remembering Jesus the light of the world. He came to cast out the prince of darkness.

C: **We remember Jesus who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

M: We hear his call to see the light.

C: **We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*Three Advent candles are lit.*

*The Congregation sings verse 3 of Light a Candle in the Night*

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*Be Seated*

*The service continues with grades 5-6 singing Come, Come Emmanuel, then The Word section of the Common Service on page 17 of the hymnal.*

**Midweek Advent Worship** will focus on The Coming Christ: Anointed to be King. Worship will be at 11:00 a.m. and at 7:00 p.m. Soup and Sandwiches meals will be held after the morning service and at 6:15 p.m. We need people to make soup and serve the meals this week. Please sign up today in the basement. Thanks!

**Poinsettias** There is a sign up sheet on the table in the basement for poinsettias. Please sign up for one today!

**Everyone** is invited to bring finger food to serve after the concert next Sunday. Thanks!

**Today** is the deadline for Scrip. Orders submitted today will be here in time for Christmas.

**The Anniversary Committee** is looking for members of the congregation that served in the military. If you know of a member that was in the military after 1955 and the years they served please give the information to Diane Suchomel or Mary Laabs by December 12. Thank you

**Ladies Aid Cookbook** Dec. 18 is the last day to submit recipes. Please give your recipe to a committee member by Dec. 18. Thanks!

**Church Mailboxes and Offering Envelopes** Please empty your mailbox or deliver the mail to someone else. We will update the mailbox slots and insert new offering envelopes on Dec. 18. Your mailbox might move. Please place your envelopes in a safe place until Jan. 1, 2012.

**Groups, committee's, organizations**, please submit your year end reports highlighting what you group did during 2011 by January 3. You can email them to [pantzna@mzluth.org](mailto:pantzna@mzluth.org).

**NEW Zoo Day** Jan. 14 for 2-5 year olds. Invite 2-5 year olds to join us. If you would like info on ways to help please contact Mr. Humann.

<b>Questions/Comments</b> about Zion? Contact:	
Pastor Randy Ott	864-2348; 362-7118; <a href="mailto:ottrr@mzluth.org">ottrr@mzluth.org</a>
Principal Brian Humann	864-2349
President Erv Zeamer	660-1161
Elders: Junior Pantzlaff	864-7563
School Board: Eric Cappelle	864-2954
<b>Today's Organist:</b> Joan Wegner	
<b>School Faculty:</b> Joan Wegner, Brenda Kuchenbecker, Brian Humann, Tim Pingel, Rick Muchka	
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.mzluth.org">www.mzluth.org</a>	<b>Synod :</b> <a href="http://www.wels.net">www.wels.net</a>
<b>Custodian:</b> Beverly Leiterman	864-2355
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<b>Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service</b> (WELS counseling)	
Appleton, Kathleen Jasman, Administrator,	731-9798
<b>Living Hope Counseling Ministries</b> De Pere (WELS counseling)	
Dr. John Johnson, Director,	338-8699

## Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

*Our mission is to  
Glorify God  
as we help people  
Grow in the Gospel  
and  
Go with the Gospel*



**Welcome!** We thank God that you have joined us at worship today. Restrooms are located in the basement.

Today we gather together in the very presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We humbly acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Series B**

Dec. 11, 2011

*Get Ready through the Proper Focus*

**Preservice Music:** Matthew Krueger

**Service:** Gathering Rite (handout) Common Service (p. 17)

**Personal Preparation for Holy Communion:** page 156

**Hymns:** 14, 22, 29, 313, 334 (Solo: *Prepare Ye the Way* by Bonnie Evenson before hymn 29, the first distribution hymn)

**Grades 5-6:** *Come, Come Emmanuel* (after the Gathering Rite)

**First Lesson:** [Isaiah 63:1-3,10,11](#)

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to preach good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,  
and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
a planting of the LORD

for the display of his splendor.  
I delight greatly in the LORD;  
my soul rejoices in my God.  
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation  
and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the soil makes the sprout come up  
and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise  
spring up before all nations.

**Psalm of the Day:** Psalm 71 (p. 92)

**Second Lesson:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

**Verse of the Day:** (sung by grades 5-6) Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8,19-28

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."

They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Now some Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**Sermon:** Isaiah 61:1-3,10,11

**You Live in the Year of the Lord's Favor**

**Prayer of the Church:** Advent (p. 123)

**Our Stewardship of the Means of Grace**

**Worship:** 290

**Advent:** 197 (137, 60)

**Bible Study:** 74 (27, 25, 17, 5)

**Youth Study:** 16

Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School, church basement
	10:00 a.m.	Band
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group, commons
Tuesday	6:30 p.m.	School Board
	6:30 p.m.	Elders
	7:30 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Midweek Advent Worship
	12:00 p.m.	Soup Sandwich meal, church basement
	5:00 p.m.	Bible History Class
	5:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class
	6:15 p.m.	Soup Sandwich meal, church basement
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Advent Worship
	8:00 p.m.	Choir
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Sing to the Lord study, commons
	8:00 a.m.	Adult Christ Light Study, church basement
	9:00 a.m.	Worship, Choir & Band Concert
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday School, church basement

**Communion** is a part of worship today. Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith we practice close or closed communion. WEL or ELS members are welcome to commune with us.

Visitors, please speak with an Elder before communing. Thank you!

**Thank You** to Pastor David Scherbarth for leading us in worship this morning! Pastor Scherbarth recently retired from serving the Lord and his people at St. John's, Two Rivers. Pastor Ott will be home on Monday.

**Monday Bible Study** will not meet this week.

**Tuesday Bible Study** will not meet again until January.

**Commons Bible Study** will continue our study *Sing to the Lord: A Study of Lutheran Hymnody* next week. We will look at *Lutheran Hymnody in the Awakening and Beyond*. Join us Sunday at 8:00 a.m.

**Adult Christ Light Bible Class** meets Sundays at 8:00 a.m. in the church basement.

**The Book Study** will not meet again until January 8. Watch the bulletin for details about the next book we will discuss.