

**ADVENT MIDWEEK
SERVICE**
WEEK THREE – PROCLAIM
December 16th, 2020 – 7 pm



Faith Lutheran Church
310 Southdale Road East
London, ON N6E 1A1

ORDER OF WORSHIP

*The might of your awesome deeds shall be
proclaimed, and I will declare your greatness.*

Psalm 145:6

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C Let us proclaim the name of the Lord and ascribe greatness to our God!

P He is the Rock, his work is perfect and all his ways are just.

C He is the God of faithfulness who does no

wrong.

P John came proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

C As it is written in the book of Isaiah the prophet—all flesh shall see the salvation of our God!

**Hymn “A Great and Mighty Wonder”
#383**

1 A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure!

ref Proclaim the Savior’s birth:
“To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!”

2 The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems

To shepherds from the sky.
Refrain

3 While thus they sing your
Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans, clap your hands.
Refrain.

4 Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored,
The infant born in Bethl’em,
The Savior and the Lord.
Refrain.

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Confession and Absolution

P Moses writes in our first lesson, “I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock, his work is

perfect and all his ways are just. He is the God of faithfulness who does no wrong.” Therefore, with contrite and broken hearts, we confess our sin.

C Heavenly Father, we come to you because you are faithful and your ways are just.

P But we are soiled by sin.

C Dirty from misdeeds.

P Grimy from guilt.

C Lost in a cesspool of selfishness.

P Though you are faithful.

C We are faithless.

P Though you are just and upright.

C We can be unjust and dishonest. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

P John the Baptist came proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He pointed to the one who is mightier—Christ Jesus our Lord. Jesus loves you. Jesus died for you. Jesus lives for you. And Jesus forgives your every sin. And so we say to the world—

C All flesh shall see the salvation of our God!

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty and everlasting God, you sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus whose birth, baptism, teaching, miracles, death and resurrection empower us to see your mighty salvation. With the open eyes of faith we thank, praise, serve and obey you; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading Deuteronomy 32:2-4

P May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb. For I will proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

P Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the

Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading Luke 3:1-16

P In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

He said therefore 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 in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to 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 shall

we do?” And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” #344

- 1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry announces that the Lord is nigh; Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within, And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail thee as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward; Without thy grace we waste away like flow’rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Lay on the sick thy healing hand and make the fallen strong to stand; Show us

the glory of thy face till beauty springs in ev’ry place.

- 5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent sets thy people free, Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

Sermon

Prayers

P Lord Jesus Christ, you are our Divine Warrior who fights for us. Whether it’s a mere skirmish or an all-out assault, the battle belongs to you, Lord. Fear and discouragement are not the order of the day; faith and hope are. This gift is for all people and so we confess—

C All flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

P Lord Jesus Christ, often we feel like Gideon

taking on the Midianite army; like David standing before Goliath; like Elijah facing 400 prophets of Baal; like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in a fiery furnace; like Esther against the Persian government. It's not our competence but your presence that matters. This gift is for all people and so we confess—

C All flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

P Lord Jesus Christ, when it seems like evil and terror will triumph, give us eyes to see your power and your might. When we're under attack by the seducer, accuser and condemner, let us see your scars, your resurrection triumph and your all-sufficient grace. This gift is for all people and so we confess—

C All flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

P Lord Jesus Christ, when we have to confront

darkness in broken people and broken situations, protect us and empower us through the gospel. When our divided hearts wage war inside us and we're tempted to look for another savior, come to us and fight, Jesus, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer and Benediction

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C For what was delivered to us was of first importance—

P That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures.

C That he was buried,

P That he was raised on the third day in

accordance with the Scriptures.

C To the end that—all flesh shall see the salvation of our God!

Hymn “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”
#347

- 1 Comfort, comfort, ye my people,
Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace
that waits for them; Tell her that her
sins I cover And her warfare now is
over.
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger He no
more will see or heed. She hath
suffered many a day, Now her griefs
have passed away; God will change

her pining sadness Into ever-springing
gladness.

- 3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying In
the desert far and near, Calling sinners
to repentance Since the kingdom now
is here. Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way; Let the
valleys rise to meet him And the hills
bow down to greet him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was
crooked; Make the rougher places
plain. Let your hearts be true and
humble, As befits his holy reign. For
the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth
is shed abroad, And all flesh shall see
the token That his Word is never
broken.

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