



Children of  
**The Promise**

*Mount Olive*

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Family Growing in Christ*

**Children of the Promise: John the Baptist**

December 13, 2023

# December 13, 2023: Midweek Advent 3

## CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE: John the Baptist

### Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

### Advent Gathering Rite

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;  
**on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.**

### Hymn: 311 Dawning Light of Our Salvation

*Congregation*

1 Long in dark - ness Is - rael wan - dered; long in mor - tal  
shad - ows we walked in bond - age and self - pit - y, trod in  
paths of sin and grief. In the proph - ets' words he told us,  
long the God of Is - rael spoke; he a - lone in strength would  
save us from the hands of all our foes.

*Refrain*

Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed! Ev - 'ry moun - tain  
 be made plane! Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;  
 all cre - a - tion bend in praise!

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## Confession of Sin

Advent is a season of repentance and preparation. In a humble spirit of repentance, let us confess our sins to God, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.  
 For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
 For sins of habit, and sins of choice.  
 For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,  
 You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
 Oh Lord, I am sorry for my sins.  
 Forgive me for Jesus' sake.**

*The congregation sings:*

## Hymn: 311 Dawning Light of Our Salvation

2 He shall raise a might - y Sav - ior; born of Da - vid's

lin - eage, he comes in cov - 'nant love to claim us, from our  
sins to set us free. Light to those who dwell in dark - ness,  
life to those from death who flee, joy un - to the earth, and  
glad - ness, to your path - ways dawn - ing peace!

*Refrain*

Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed! Ev - 'ry moun - tain  
be made plane! Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;  
all cre - a - tion bend in praise!

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## Absolution

God has forgiven all of your sins. Showing the greatest act of selfless love, he sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to take your place. Jesus came to die so that you might be free from the guilt and punishment of your sins. We praise God for his love and forgiveness.

**Amen.**

The congregation sings:

## Hymn: 311 Dawning Light of Our Salvation

sts. Ref, 3

3 Je - sus, Lord, and might - y Sav - ior, Da - vid's son and  
yet his King, dawn - ing light of our sal - va - tion, of your  
sav - ing pow'r we sing! Stand, O lame, and dance, ye bro - ken;  
know the Sav - ior's heal - ing grace. Come, O deaf, and hear him  
sing - ing; turn, O blind, be - hold his face!

*Refrain*  
Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed! Ev - 'ry moun - tain  
be made plane! Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;  
all cre - a - tion bend in praise!

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## Prayer

Let us pray.

Lord, in ancient times you rescued your people despite their unfaithfulness. Though you delivered them from slavery in Egypt and brought them into a land flowing with milk and honey, they grumbled and rebelled against you time and again. Truly, you are a God who saves your people not because of their goodness and faithfulness but simply because of your great mercy. For this we thank you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Reading

*Luke 1:11–25*

<sup>11</sup>Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. <sup>14</sup>He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. <sup>16</sup>He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

<sup>18</sup>Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

<sup>19</sup>The angel said to him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup>And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time.”

<sup>21</sup>Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. <sup>22</sup>When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

<sup>23</sup>When his time of service was completed, he returned home. <sup>24</sup>After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. <sup>25</sup>“The Lord has done this for me,” she said. “In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

*Luke 1:57–66*

<sup>57</sup>When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

<sup>59</sup>On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, <sup>60</sup>but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

<sup>61</sup>They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

<sup>62</sup>Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. <sup>63</sup>He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.”

<sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup>All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. <sup>66</sup>Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem 10 AM: Arise, O Christian People**

*Wednesday Morning Bible Class*

**Anthem 6 PM: Come, Jesus, Prince of Peace**

*Adult Choir*

## Reading

*John 1:6–8, 19–28*

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>19</sup>Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup>He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.”

<sup>21</sup>They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?”

He answered, “No.”

<sup>22</sup>Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

<sup>23</sup>John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’ ”

<sup>24</sup>Now the Pharisees who had been sent <sup>25</sup>questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

<sup>26</sup>“I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. <sup>27</sup>He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

<sup>28</sup>This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **Hymn of the Day: 317 When All the World Was Cursed**

**Sermon: Luke 1:57-66**

*Rev. Erich Schaser*

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**



**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Offering**

*If you are visiting Mount Olive today, please don't feel obligated to give an offering. We are happy to have you as our guest today. Please do sign the friendship register and leave your contact information. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring donation, scan the QR code to visit Mount Olive's online giving page. Thank you!*



## **302 Prepare the Royal Highway**

### **Prayer**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Blessing**

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

**Amen.**

**Presiding Minister:**

*Pastor Joel Zank AM, Pastor Joe Gawel PM*

**Organist**

*Jon Riehle*

**Wednesday Morning Bible Class**

*Barb Green, Sharon Meyer*

**Adult Choir**

*Klint Kaddatz*

**Adult Choir Accompanist**

*Beth Flatau*

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### **Special Christmas Worship**

December 16- 3K-5K Christmas Service at Mount Olive 3:00 PM

December 20 - Grades 1-8 Christmas Service at FVL 6:00 PM

(No Saturday Night Service on December 23)

December 24-Christmas Eve at Mount Olive

8:00 AM      10:30 AM      4:00 PM      6:00 PM

December 25-Christmas Day with Holy Communion

9:00 AM

(No Monday Night Service, December 25)