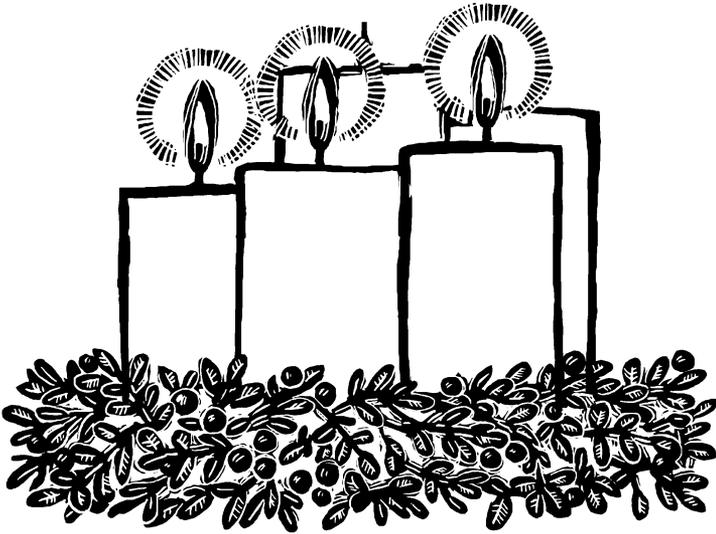


December 13, 2020



— THIRD SUNDAY OF —  
**ADVENT**

**First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of El Monte  
4900 Kings Row  
El Monte, CA 91731  
(626) 789-8989**

[firstlutheranelmonte@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutheranelmonte@gmail.com)

[firstlutheranelmonte.com](http://firstlutheranelmonte.com)

# Rejoicing Always

## AS WE GATHER

We hear John the Baptist coming to prepare the way for the Lord, whose earthly birth we are preparing to celebrate and whose coming again on the Last Day is the promise of resurrection and eternal life for all who believe. Between our coming to faith and His coming again, we are called to lives of faith that continue to rejoice, to pray, and to give thanks in every circumstance. We can do that because we have come to the light of our salvation and hope of eternal life. Now certainly it's easier to rejoice, pray, and give thanks when things are going well. It's another thing when we suffer illness or persecution, the reverses, challenges, and disappointments of life. Nevertheless, the Spirit of Christ seeks to enable us to do just that—to rejoice always, to pray always, and to give thanks to God always in all circumstances. This is holy living, constantly keeping the eyes of faith on the sure and certain Word and promises of God for His people, the God who blesses, keeps, comforts, and strengthens us every day. We rejoice with the psalmist, saying, "This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

## HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #22 vs 1 in songbook

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Behold, the true light has come into the world.  
Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins  
and receiving His forgiveness.

**People: Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as  
we confess the darkness of our waywardness  
and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to  
rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we  
have brought upon ourselves. Make us truly  
repentant, that we may receive the holiness of  
faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, the forgiveness  
of our sins. Amen.**

Pastor: The true light has come. To all who receive  
Him, He makes to be the children of God. Upon this,  
your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a  
servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to  
all of you. And in the stead and by the command of  
my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the  
name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy  
Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
**People: the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness  
**People: and illumine Your Church.**

## HYMN

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” #9 songbook

✘ WORD ✘

***(During Covid restrictions the Liturgy and Scripture will be read, aloud, by no more than two members of the congregation)***

**INTROIT**

Reader: Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men: the Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing: but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your request be made known unto God.

Lord, Thou has been favorable unto Thy land: Thou has brought back the captivity of Jacob.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

**KYRIE** (*p. \_\_\_\_ in hymnal*)

Reader: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*  
(The year of the Lord's favor)

**PSALM** *Psalms 126*

**EPISTLE** *1 Thessalonians 5:16–24* (Rejoice always)

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 1:6–8, 19–28*  
(The testimony of John the Baptist)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” #60 vs 1 & 3 in hymnal

### **SERMON**

**THE APOSTLES’ CREED** (pg. 12 in front of hymnal)

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the Holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God guard and defend us from all temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For our Synod President, our District President, for all pastors and servants of Christ, that they proclaim with faithfulness and clarity the true light of the Gospel in all they do, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For all who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who are sick, **Chery Allen: Bill Cary: Leon Coleman: William Bruce Conner: Stephanie Fernandez: Gina Griffin: Linda Joslen and Frances Remus-Williams**, that God grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord who taught us to pray...

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

**People: Amen.**

## **HYMN**

"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" #11 vs 1 in songbook



**Please keep the following people in your prayers this week.**

**Please send new prayer requests & updates to Cyndi via text 626-827-6848 or email [attfam1@yahoo.com](mailto:attfam1@yahoo.com)**

Elaine Adams: Courtney Sullivan: Mary at Lutheran High: Our schools & universities: Alexa & Baby Rowan; Mr. & Mrs. George Braun; Donna D.; Richard F.; Tim N.; Felix –Marc, Jonelle & Emma S – Socorro – Barbara A – Chery A – Art B & family – The Calderon Family – Andres C – Renee D – Johnny H – Anna H – Nancy K – Bill M – Leo M – Bailey, Brenden, Kadence, and Kristen M – Roberta M – Daniel M – Paula M – Gerry N – Jeff P – Karen P – Doreen P – Mary Lou R – Dan & Mercy S – Katy & Junior V – Breana V – The Abell Family – Al B – Jose C – Stephanie C – Barbara C – Helen C – Wanda D – Corey D – the Day Family – Gary E – Jim E – Tammy E – Wendy F – John F – Larry F – Grace G – Mando, Nikki & Nicole G – Frank & Leila H – Olga H – Anita H – Barry M – Breanna M – Clark M – Debbie N – Florence N – Nathanael N – Allan N – Kim P – The Poise Family – Billy P – Ruth P – Bernice R – Anaya R – Frances RW – Lillian R – Kristina S – Courtney S – John & Carol T – Henry V – Tess V – Jack & Daisy V



Mission Offering Today



**CHRISTMAS  
PROGRAM**

Our worship service next week will include a puppet show performed by children, teens and young adults.

Advent is a time of repentance and preparation as God's people await the coming of their Savior and King. The symbols of Advent flow out of the Old Testament prophecies about the coming Messiah. These prophecies point to the Son of God, who entered this world as a human baby, who suffered and died, and who rose again for you.

The ancient hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" recalls seven prophecies about Jesus. They are...

- *O Wisdom* – Jesus is the wisdom of God who lights the path of knowledge and teaches us in the way we should go
- *O Adonai* – Adonai means "Lord". Jesus is the Lord of might and king of all creation. He comes with outstretched arms to redeem us.
- *O Root of Jesse* – New life shoots from the dead stump. Jesus is the promised Messiah who comes to redeem us from the tyranny of Satan. By His death we have life forever.
- *O Key of David* – Jesus is the key that opens heaven to all who trust in Him for their salvation.
- *O Dayspring* – Jesus is the dayspring who brings eternal light and life, chasing away the darkness of sin and death forever.
- *O Desire of Nations* – Jesus is the desire of not only Israel, but of all the nations who have waited and watched for the true Savior to come.
- *O Emmanuel* – Jesus is God's Son made man and born to the Virgin Mary. Emmanuel means "God with us". Jesus lived among us on earth and remains God with us in His Word and in the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

