

# Third Sunday in Advent - December 17, 2023

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

MUSICIAN: KAREN WARNELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS / MUSICAL PRELUDE - KAREN WARNELL

GATHERING SONG: "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn" Insert

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

L: In the beginning was the Word, **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

L: In the Word was life, **and the life was the light of all people.**

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us, **and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

SCRIPTURE  
SONG



■ Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to



Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.



□ Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O God of the u - ni - verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na - tions.



Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and sing the glo - ry of your name? *Refrain*



▣ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,



for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray. God of light and life, by the power of your Spirit and the light of your Word, enable us to continue our Advent waiting in faithfulness as we prepare to receive the one who is the Light of the World. **Lord in your mercy ... hear our prayer.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

"The First Noel" (1st verse) LBW #56

WORD

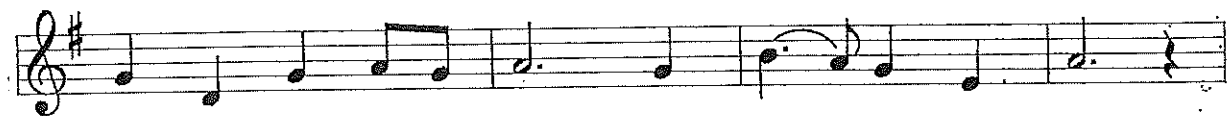
READINGS

FIRST READING - ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11 (*pew Bible, p. 737*) **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING - 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24 (*pew Bible, p. 1174*) **Thanks be to God.**

KC JAM/CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



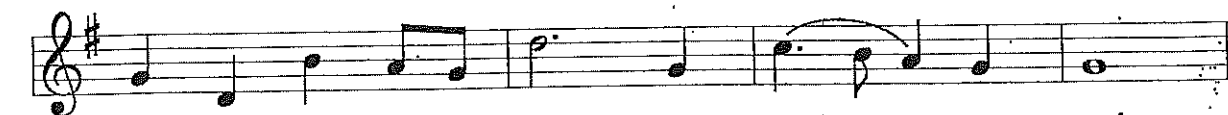
Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!



Our hearts burn with - in us while you o - pen to us the Scrip-tures.



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je - sus Christ, all praise to you!

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (*pew Bible, p. 994*)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## PRAYER

### THE PRAYERS

L: As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

Prayer for the whole Church.....Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

Prayer for the nations.....Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

Prayer for those in need....Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

Prayer for the parish....Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

Prayer for special concerns....Hear us, O God; **your mercy is great.**

L: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen**

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### THE BIBLE LUTHERAN CHOIR PRESENTS THEIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

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*Created by Dave Clark*

*Arranged and Orchestrated by Steve Mauldin*

### **Musical Selections:**

"Jesus, Oh What A Wonderful Child" *with* "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

"That Beautiful Name"

"Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

"Was He Quiet or Did He Cry?" *with* "Away in a Manger"

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" *with* "Angels We Have Heard on High"

"A King Changes Everything"

"The First Christmas Gift" *with* "O Come, All Ye Faithful" *and* "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"

### **Choir Members**

#### **Soprano**

Michelle Batchelor

Leslie Dickerson

Karen Hall

Carol Patterson

#### **Tenor**

Andy Dasher

Corky Spitler

Alan Waldhour

#### **Bass**

Henry Dickerson

Richard Hall

**Choir Director:** Karen Hall

**Narrator:** Cheryl Dasher

**Sound Tech:** Harrold Wheeler, Jr.

***Musical copyright information is available on the church website: [www.biblelutheranchurch.org/worship.html](http://www.biblelutheranchurch.org/worship.html)***

# Proposed Amendments to the Bible Lutheran Church Constitution

*Amendment 1: For the purpose of clarifying our election process for council members*

## ARTICLE 10 - CONGREGATION COUNCIL

### Current

10.03 The members of the congregation council (except the pastor) shall be elected at the annual meeting in January. A majority of the votes cast will be required for election to council. If no candidate receives a majority vote, there shall be a run-off election immediately following the first vote. The term of office shall be for three (3) years with the term of office beginning on February 1 and ending on January 31. One third (1/3) of the members shall be elected each year. Newly elected congregation council members shall be installed at worship on any Sunday prior to the date they assume office.

### Altered

10.03 Three new members for the congregation council (except the pastor) shall be elected at the annual meeting in January. When there are more than three (3) candidates, voters will select up to three candidates on a ballot and the three (3) candidates with the most votes shall be elected. The term of office shall be for three (3) years with the term year beginning on February 1 and ending on January 31. Newly elected congregation council members shall be installed at worship on any Sunday prior to the date they assume office.

*Amendment 2: Along with changes to our "Anti-Harassment Policy", this is to clarify our Biblical stance on indiscretions with minors*

## ARTICLE 3 – MINISTRY

### Current

3.04. All youth leaders, teachers, etc. will be vetted in accordance with this constitution and by-laws.

### Altered

3.04. All youth leaders, teachers, etc. will be vetted in accordance with this constitution and by-laws. We follow Jesus' words in Matthew 18:5-6 *Jesus said "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."*

To help ensure the safety of our children, anyone found to be involved in misconduct with a minor shall have access denied to serve over minors by this congregation and will be reported to the proper authorities.