

**3rd Sunday of Advent
DECEMBER 16-17, 2023**

ORDERS OF WORSHIP

Saturday Spoken Vespers - 5pm

Welcome & Announcements
Call to Worship
Confession & Forgiveness
Litany of Praise
Prayer of the Day
Bible Readings
Message
Creed, Prayers and Peace
Offertory
The Words of Communion
Communion
The Lord's Prayer
Blessing & Sending

Sunday Liturgical - 10am

Prelude
Invocation
Lighting of Advent Wreath
"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" ELW 257
v. 1-3
Confession & Forgiveness
Opening Hymn ELW 249
(v. 1, 2, 4, & 5)
Greeting p. 138
Kyrie p. 138
Prayer of the Day
First Bible Reading
Psalm of the Day Psalm 126
Second Bible Reading
Gospel Acclamation
Today's Message
Hymn of the Day ELW 254
Creed, Prayers & Peace
Offertory
"Infant Holy"
St. John's Bell Choir
Offering
Eucharistic Liturgy & Lord's Prayer p. 144
Lamb of God & Distribution p. 146
Blessing & Prayer p. 146
Benediction & Sending Hymn ELW 264
Dismissal



**WEEKLY WORSHIP
BULLETIN FOR
ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE ERIE LUTHERAN PARISH**

2216 PEACH STREET, ERIE PA 16502
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YOU BELONG HERE

We welcome you to our congregation this weekend! We are glad to have you with us. We celebrate Holy Communion at every service. If you are a baptized Christian, please join us at the Lord's Supper. We ask that you come down the center aisle as directed and receive your wafer and wine as you walk back to your seat.

If you are new to us, everything you need for worship is projected on the screen and in this bulletin. Please feel free to use the red hymnal found in your pew, if you are more comfortable. The pages and hymn numbers are to the left of this bulletin.

Please join us for coffee after worship in the lobby.

Should you need a bathroom, they are through the glass doors in the back of the nave (sanctuary) and down the hallway on your left. A family/handicap accessible restroom with baby changing station is available in the front lobby (Peach Street entrance).

TODAY'S THEME

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Today's Bible Readings

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Pew Bible p. 603
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Pew Bible p. 961
Psalm 126	Pew Bible p. 499
John 1:6-8, 19-28	Pew Bible p. 862

Today's Message

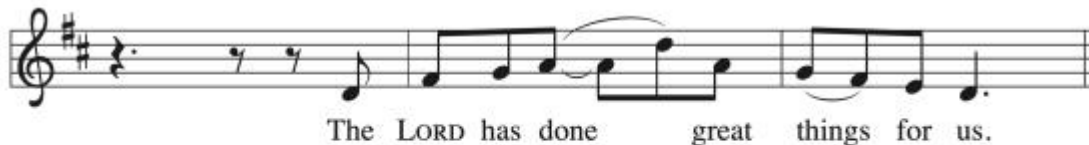
"A Divine Intervention to Shatter the Darkness"
by Rev. Jerry Gray

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PSALM RESPONSE:



Psalm 126:3

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.

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OUR PRAYER LISTS:

Members: Gayle Matthis, Joan Wheeler, Lynn Schrimper, Robert Schlaufman, Kellie Montifiori, Sharon Hetrick, Judy Crissman, Sandy Alwens, and Nancy Varner.

Cancer treatments: Ellen Stevens

Friends of the congregation: Jeff LaLonde, Ryan Meyers, Sami D, Jamey Price, Ken Marshall, Amanda VanLoon, Richard D., Ernie Winter, Jarod Stolz, Fran Moriarty, Audrey Hetrick, Astro Rys, Vernon Thompson, Amy Nupp, Michelle S., Rev. Rhodes and family as they mourn the loss of Owen Jr., Natalie Zimmerly, and David Gaston.

Cancer Friends: Bishop Lozano, Pastor Ken Larson, Lee S, Janie G, Karen B, Norm S, Tony Paggio, Vicki Hanson, Edward Scarpitti, Beaty Emch, Ruth Stiles, Admiral Brent Scott, Katrina, Arlene Rick, Gliceria Conuel, Becky, Nicole C., and Ian Minner.

Other prayer requests: The congregation of St. John's to remain strong and faithful as we journey through the months to come.

Thank You: We would like to thank our Bell Choir for their gift of music today.