

LUTHERAN CHAPEL



RUTH 1:1-17 AND JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

“RUTH THE MOABITE AND JOHN THE FORERUNNER”

John prepares the way of the Lord with his message of repentance pointing to the Christ. Just how comfortable are we with repentance in the middle of our culture's Christmas rush?

**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 13, 2020**

**lutheranchapelchurch.org
(704) 864-6491**

**LUTHERAN CHAPEL
DECEMBER 13, 2020
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER**

***BOLD** indicates congregational responses.*

GATHER

WELCOME

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

GREETING

Matthew 11:28-30

P: We gather together in the name of the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

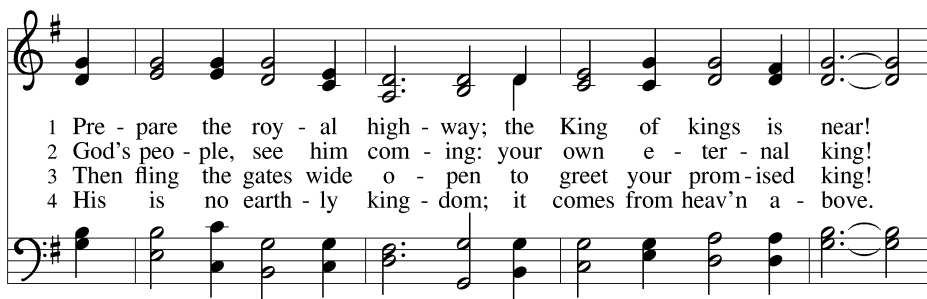
C: Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, O everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in.

P: Who is this King of glory?

C: The Lord of hosts is the King of glory! The Lord of hosts is the King of glory!

P: Who is this King of glory?

C: The Lord of hosts is the King of glory!



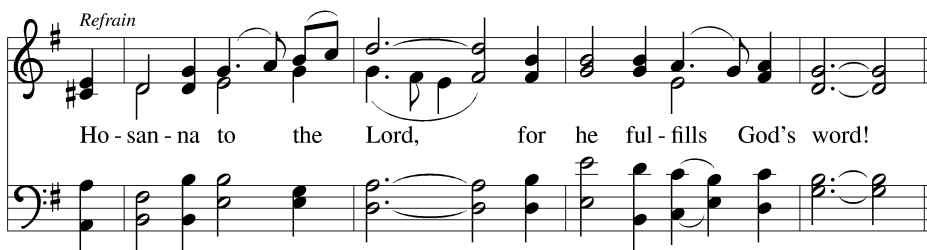
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing;
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

WORD

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING “*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*” (vv. 1-3)
(Cantor sings v. 3, Congregation sings vv. 1-3)



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

STORY OF SALVATION LESSON

RUTH 1:1-17

Ruth along with the rest of the Moabites and other –ite people are supposed to be wiped out since the Conquest. Yet here the faith of Ruth in the LORD and her mother-in-law builds the foundation for the coming King.

¹In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the

names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

⁶Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹⁵So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶**But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die, I will die —there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"**

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126

arr. R. Myers

Choir alone 1. When God re - vealed His glo - rous name,
 All Women 2. The world be - holds the glo - rious change,
 All Men 3. Lord, You can clear the dark - est skies,
 Everyone 4. Let those who sow in sad - ness wait

3
 And changed our mourn - ful state, The
 and does Your works con - fess; And
 Can give us day for night; Make
 'Til Your great har - vest come; They

6
 rap - ture seems a pleas - ing dream,
 tongues break out in glo - rious strains,
 drops of sa - cred sor - row rise
 shall pro - claim their sheaves are great

8
 The grace ap - pears so great.
 They sing in thank - ful - ness.
 To riv - ers of de - light.
 And shout their bless - ings home.

Tune is in the Public Domain

SECOND LESSON

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

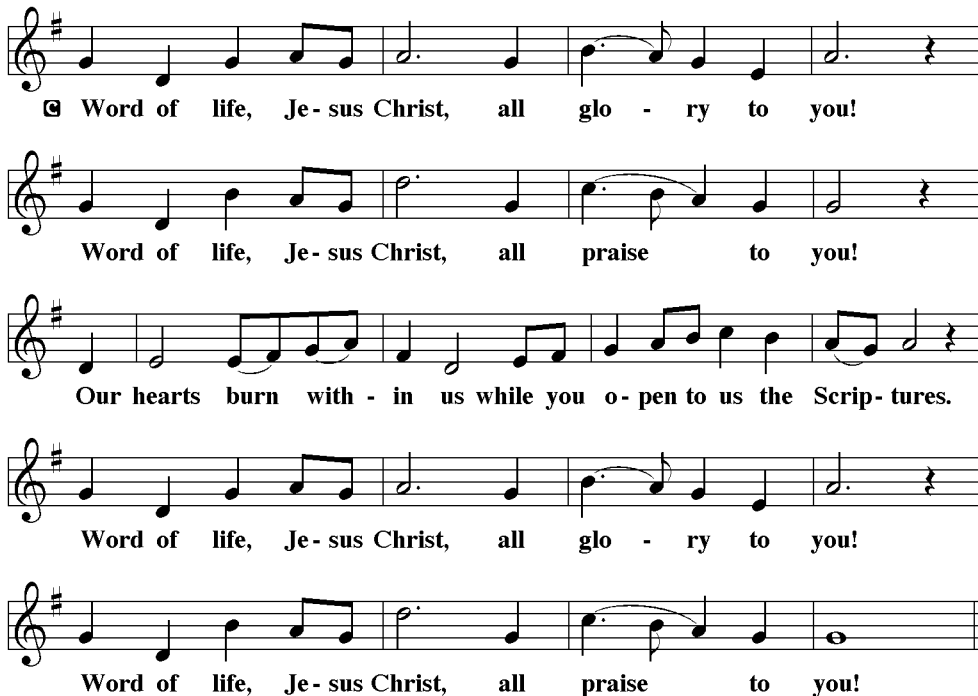
²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 1:1, Luke 24:32



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

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.

Response after the announcement:

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

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

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,

‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE

“Ruth the Moabite and John the Forerunner”

On the Journey of Ruth the Moabite

Are You Ready for Christmas?

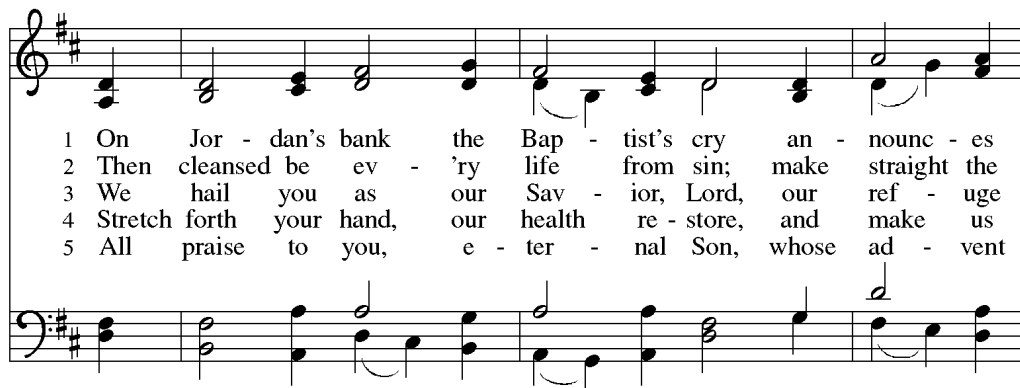
The Light that is Coming

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus’ saving power: Do I fail to testify to the light of Jesus Christ? Do I fail to give a witness to His Presence now and His coming soon through my words and actions?

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus’ ultimate saving power: The LORD lifts up John the Baptist and other faithful witnesses to testify to the coming Light, Jesus Christ our Lord.

On Discipleship: When have I judged somebody unfairly because of their background or ethnicity? Can someone good really come from Moab or Nazareth or Gastonia?

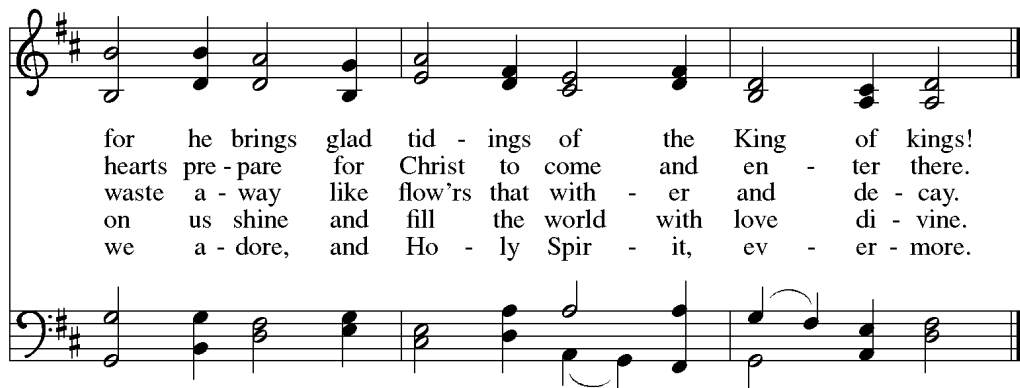
Contemplate the humble and surprising way of Providence both biblically and in your personal journey. Prepare spiritually, physically, and mentally for the coming of Christ now. What is your take away for your walk with Christ?



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in Him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1:13-14

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

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

And 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

sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence 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.

P: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith:

C: pray in the Holy Spirit. *Jude 20*

P: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Jude 21*

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Matthew 5:22-24: Ephesians 4:1-3

P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. *2 Corinthians 13:11*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P: God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

P: God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship (*the congregation's worship leaders may be named*). Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Prayers conclude:

P: Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

SENDING

THE BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

P: 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. In the Name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

+ + + + +

PARISH NEWS

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT SERVICES: Join us Wednesday evenings at 7:30 during Advent for Night Prayer. The services will be held in the Sanctuary both in-person and streamed.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: Each year, our Christmas Eve service is one of our most attended services. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, two identical services will be offered, one at 4:00pm and one at 7:00pm, each with musical preludes beginning at 3:45pm and 6:45pm respectively. With seating capacity in our sanctuary limited to 75 for each service we must plan for attendance and take reservations. There are two ways to make reservations:

1. For those technologically comfortable, a google form link can be accessed from our website (lutheranchapelchurch.org) on the worship page asking name, number of seats reserved, and the selected service (4:00pm or 7:00pm). *This is the most efficient way to reserve seating.*
2. For those not as comfortable with technology, you can reserve seating by emailing the church office (churchoffice@lutheranchapelchurch.org) or calling the church office (704-864-6491). If leaving a message, please include your name, number of seats reserved, and the selected service.

The 7:00pm service (and prelude) will be streamed LIVE on our website, YouTube and Facebook for members who prefer to worship virtually on Christmas Eve. Recordings will also be available on all three sites after the service.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER: Articles for the next newsletter are due by Thursday, December 17. Thank you!

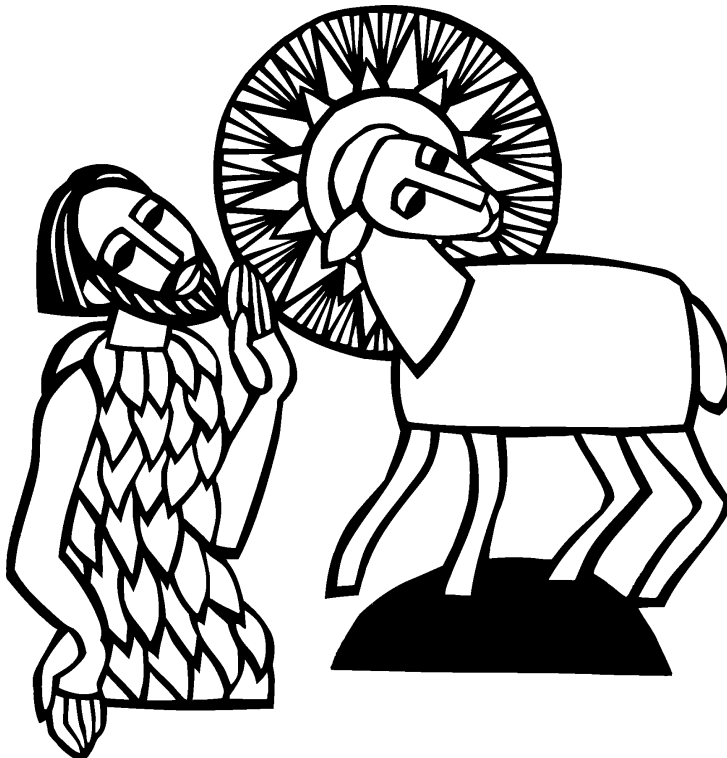
2021 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR: There are many Sundays still available on the 2021 Altar Flower Calendar. Please contact Susan Lewis at 704-864-5242 if you'd like to sign up for a special Sunday.

SPECIAL LOVE OFFERING: During 2020 our Lutheran Chapel staff members have stepped up to provide as much normalcy as possible for our congregation to worship together, stay connected, give back and return to the church campus. With this in mind, the congregational council would like to provide a love offering to all of our staff as a thank you. If you would like to participate in this love offering, please mark "staff gift" on your contribution in the Sunday offering plate, via mail to 702 N. New Hope Rd., Gastonia, NC 28054 or church website (lutheranchapelchurch.org) Give option. Deadline to contribute is TODAY as love offering will be distributed 12/20. Many thanks for your prayerful consideration in this love offering.

SPROUTS: We will continue with virtual meetings through December. Our next youth group meeting will be **Wednesday, December 16**. We will also be meeting on **December 20 at 9:30 am** for *Zoom Sunday School*. Amy will email the Zoom link during the week.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB: The next novel in our women's book club will be *Mere Christianity*. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, January 21st at 6 pm**, location TBD. If you are interested in attending this book club session, please contact Amy at amy@lutheranchapelchurch.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We need a few good men AND women! With changes to our 10:30 worship service due to COVID-19 our weekly usher opportunities have also changed. We are currently in need of volunteers to serve as our single “inside sanctuary” usher to primarily meet, greet and seat, distribute masks, open/close doors during service and oversee dismissal. If you are interested in serving in this capacity please contact Steve Clark or Ervin Hoffman. Thank you!



DAILY PRAYER

EACH MORNING AND EVENING, PRAY TO THE LORD. (Psalm 1:2) A prayer list, daily lessons to read the Bible together each year, and a song of praise are below. The “*Our Daily Bread*” devotional is available as a booklet, an app in eBook format, daily e-mail, or podcast. Visit odb.org/subscribe. Fill out a prayer card to share or notify the church office with concerns.

PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Braylon Beam, B.T. Bradley, Donna Carpenter, Jerry Carpenter, Hunter Clark, Tonya Dowdy, Lynda Ellington, Kathy Finch, Paulette Hale, Helen Hoffman, Henry Hoffman, Pr. Peter & Nancy Homovich, Dru Huffstickler, Robert Park, Betty Petty, Barbara Robinson, Bill Robinson, and Karen Shambaugh.

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: Ruth Benoy, Vera Beutler, Eula Brazell, Lee Brinkley, Taylor Brinkley, Amelia Edwards, Jeannie Ehlers, Garry and Carole Farmer, Jamison Franklin, James Goudelock, Harriet Grantham, Alice Hester, Sherry Hester, Travis Hogue, Mary Jackson, Paula Kadel, Dave and Crystal Lanning, Suzanne Ledford, Bill McCullen, Monica Morrissey, Frieda Moses, Lee Norris, Sam & Lara Rasanen, Craig Rooney, Martin Salois, Meredith Scruggs, Pastor Peter Setzer, Jimmie Sloop Jr., Charlene Sorenson, Dana Williams, and Lulu Zizak.

WEEK 51: DECEMBER 13 to DECEMBER 20, 2020

12/13 Morning Reading: Revelation 4—Evening Reading: Hosea 12, 13, 14

12/14 Morning Reading: Revelation 5—Evening Reading: Joel

12/15 Morning Reading: Revelation 6—Evening Reading: Amos 1, 2, 3

12/16 Morning Reading: Revelation 7—Evening Reading: Amos 4, 5, 6

12/17 Morning Reading: Revelation 8—Evening Reading: Amos 7, 8, 9

12/18 Morning Reading: Revelation 9—Evening Reading: Obadiah

12/19 Morning Reading: Revelation 10—Evening Reading: Jonah

12/20 Morning Reading: Revelation 11—Evening Reading: Micah 1, 2, 3

Song Of Praise “*On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry*” ELW #249

Next Sunday, DECEMBER 20, 2020 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 Morning Prayer: 1 Samuel 17:1-51 and Luke 1:26-38

9:00 Zoom Sunday School: God’s Messengers

10:30 Holy Communion: 1 Samuel 17:1-51 and Luke 1:26-38

“*David vs. Goliath and Mary, Mother of our Lord*”

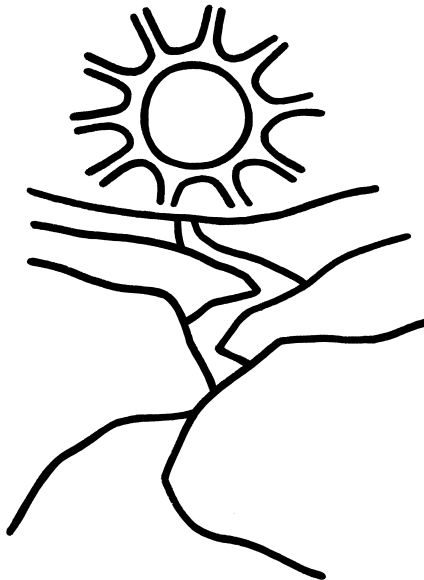
Note: *daily*Lectio.net provides the complete Revised Common Lectionary for both Sunday and daily lessons.

This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that list the commemorations for the week.



CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2020

Sun-13	9:00 am	Sunday School via Zoom
	10:30 am	Worship Service and Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
	6:00 pm	Chancel Choir
	8:00 pm	Faith Group (Prayer Hut)
Mon-14	8:30 am	Preschool
Tues-15	8:30 am	Preschool
	10:00 am	Clothing Closet Workday
Wed-16	8:30 am	Preschool
	6:00 pm	Sprouts via Zoom
	6:15 pm	Handbells
	7:30 pm	Advent Service
Thur-17	8:30 am	Preschool



*We are so happy you joined us for worship this morning.
Please fill out the information below and leave this page in the pew
following the service. Thank you!*

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

_____ Member _____ Visitor _____ Desire a call from the Pastor

Prayer Request: _____
