



The  
desert  
shall  
rejoice  
and blossom

ISAIAH 35:1



# Hope Lutheran Church

December 11, 2022

Pastor

Jim Helgren

Organist

Sarah Purcell

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## Third Sunday of Advent

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**Prelude, Welcome, Announcements**

**Opening Hymn "The Advent of Our God"**

**LBW # 22**

**P: Right from the beginning God's love has reached.**

**C: And from the beginning man has refused to understand.**

**P: But love went on reaching, offering itself.**

**C: Love offered deep joy...we wanted thrills.**

**P: Love offered freedom...we wanted license.**

**C: Love offered communion with God Himself...we wanted approval for our wars...**

**P: Even yet love went on reaching. Right through the chaos of our world.**

**C: Through the confusion of our minds, He is reaching...**

**P: Right past the shackles of my mind.**

**C: And the Word of the Father became Mary's little Son.**

**All: And His love reached all the way to where I was.**

**—Gloria Gaither**

**Prayer of the Day (in unison) Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who**

**lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**lighting of the Advent Candles “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”  
Verses 1-3** **LBW # 34**

<b>The Lessons</b>	<b>Isaiah 35:1-10</b>	
	<b>Psalm 146:5-10</b>	<b>LBW pg. 287</b>
	<b>James 5:7-10</b>	

**Alleluia** **pg. 62**

**Gospel** **Matthew 11:2-11**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day “Hark, the Glad Sound”** **LBW # 35**

**The Apostles’ Creed** **pg. 65**

**Offering/Offertory**

**Prayers of the Church-----The Lord’s Prayer**

**Benediction & Dismissal**

**Closing Hymn “Joy to the World”** **LBW # 39**

**In Our Prayers: Dwight Eisenhower, Bruce Gerking, and Ruth Hietbrink.**

**We welcome you to worship with us today. If you are a guest please sign the guest book in the entry.**

**Wednesday 14th: 4:00 p.m. Kids for Christ,**

**6:00 p.m. Confirmation, 7:30 p.m. Church Council**

**Thursday 15th: 10:30 a.m. Pastor leads worship at Good Sam.**

**Sunday 18th: 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship, SS Program,  
7:00 p.m. Cantata at Grace; last Sunday to bring gifts for the  
Friendship Home.**



## FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall  
be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!"  
Here is your God.  
He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing  
for joy.  
For waters shall break forth in the  
wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall  
go astray.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up  
on it;

they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall  
return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## Psalm 146:5-10

or Luke 1:46b-55

## SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead  
of you,

who will prepare your way before you."

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25.

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Tracks 1 and 2  
ELCA-V