



Preparation for Worship:

The spirit of the Lord is upon us to bring good news to all the world. May we be strengthened for this work through our time of worship. (See Isaiah 61:1).

Please stand as you are able **Bold Items read in unison*

GATHERING *We come together to worship God*

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation/Call to Worship: **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** (Isaiah 9:6)

Opening Prayer

* Opening Hymn – *Joy to the World!* Red **#18**

Confession of Sin: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ’s sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Response (sung,#6, v.3): **Di-vine Re-deem-er, glo-rious King, Re-pent-ant heart to Thee we bring. Thy ho-ly blood for us was spilt; Cleanse us from all the stains of guilt.**

Declaration of Grace

Prayers of the Church (P: Lord in Your mercy C: **Hear our prayer.**)

WORD – *We seek guidance from God’s Word*

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

Old Testament

Psalms 126

Responsive Reading

* John 1:6-8,19-28

* Gospel

* Confession of Faith (Apostles’ Creed): **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, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where He shall 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.**

* Gloria Patri: (sung, p. 4) **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. Amen, Amen.**

*Offertory (sung, p. 33 for melody) **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation: and uphold me with Your free Spirit.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy & Children’s Sermon

Hymn – *Hark, the Glad Sound!* Red **#12**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Epistle

Sermon – *He Will Be Called Wonderful Counselor* Pastor Barry Nelson

SENDING *We go out to live in & share God’s Word*

* Closing Hymn – *Angels from the Realms of Glory* Red **#25**

* Lord’s Prayer: **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.**

* Benediction & Doxology: (sung, p. 24 for melody) **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here be-low; Praise Him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host: Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.**

* Dismissal L: Go in Peace, and Serve the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Your Light Has Come

In the introduction to his book *For All God’s Worth*, theologian N.T. Wright says, “Christmas is God lighting a candle, and you don’t light a candle in a room that’s already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that’s so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. The light shines in the darkness, says St. John, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

For that reason, Wright explains, Christmas isn’t a dream or a momentary escape but reality. And the same is true for Christianity. “Either Jesus is the Lord of the world and all reality makes sense in his life, or he is dangerously irrelevant to the problems and possibilities of today’s world,” he adds. “There is no middle ground. Either Jesus was, and is, the Word of God, or he, and the stories Christians tell about him, are lies.”

This Week in the Parish - December 17 - 25

TODAY!	10:00am	Packing Cheer Sacks at Hope
WEDNESDAY	7:30 pm	First Am. WMF w/Potluck & cookie exchange
THURSDAY		Newsletter Deadline!
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Hope Worship
	9:30 am	First American Sunday School
	10: 00am	Hope Sunday School
	10:45 am	First American Worship
	6:00 pm	Sunday School Christmas Program at Hope
	7:30 pm	Carol & Candlelight Service at First American
CHRISTMAS	9:00 am	Hope Worship with Holy Communion
DAY	10:45 am	First American Worship with Holy Communion

Rejoicing in your presence & gifts – December 10, 2023

First American: General—\$1580. Benevolence—\$42. Sunday School—\$17. AFLC Home Missions—\$25. The SON Network-Pastor Scheiermann—\$100. Budget per Sunday—\$1662

Welcome to what some branches of the Christian church call Gaudete, or Rejoice, Sunday. May we find joy in worshiping God and anticipating the celebration of Christ's birth. Guests, please sign the book in the narthex.

Our time of prayer during our corporate worship service is very important. To maintain a current prayer list, requests for non-members will be printed in the bulletin for three weeks. For additional time, please send an update to Pastor Barry. New additions will be underlined, and those scheduled to come off the next week will be in italics.

Health Needs of our Members: Raymond Anderson. Sandy Baier. Wayne Bietz. Allan Hale. Dawsyn Johnston.

Health Needs: Linda Nelson (mother of Pastor Barry). Ed Pickar (husband of Pinky Huether's cousin).

Sympathy: Prayers for the family & friends of *Judy Brown* (Tripp community) and Roy Isaak (former member of First American).

Birthdays: 18 Howard Friederich. 19 Glen Dewald, Wilma Herr. 22 Melissa Schmidt. 23 Drew Kurtz.

Anniversaries: 14 Logan & Jordan Albers. 21 Andrew & Whitney Schaeffer.

AFLC Churches: Our Savior's Lutheran, Patterson, CA; Trinity Free Lutheran, Bemidji, MN; Faith Free Lutheran, Brockton, MT.

Mission: Safe Place of Eastern SD, Mitchell, SD

Our members in Care Centers: Avera Bormann Manor in Parkston: Elmer Bietz
Avera Weskota Manor in Wessington Springs: Lorene Jerke
Freeman Mennonite Assisted Living: Dorothy Friman
Good Samaritan Society-Scotland: Rose Prien
Menno-Olivet Care Center: Elvera Friederich

Tripp-Delmont Parish + Association of Free Lutheran Churches
Pastor Barry Nelson

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Today's Readings

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday in Advent

Old Testament

Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. ⁴They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. ⁸For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Psalm 126

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dreamed.

² **Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.

⁴ **Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev.**

⁵ Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.**

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 1:6-8,19-28

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

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" ²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

** Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord. * C: Praise to You, O Christ.*

Sermon Text: Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil. ²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Lessons – Dec. 24, 2023 OT – 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 Psalm 89:1-5

Epistle – Romans 16:25-27 Gospel – Luke 1:26-38

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

"He Will Be Called Wonderful Counselor" December 17, 2023

1. Joyful in Prayer

2. Sanctified by the Spirit

3. Adorned in the Righteousness of Christ



Advent & Christmas 2023

He Will Be Called

Sunday Morning Services

Online – FAHope.org

Isaiah 64:1-9

Mighty God

Online – FAHope.org

Mark 1:1-8

Prince of Peace

December 17 (Hope Only)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Wonderful Counselor

December 24 – Christmas Eve

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

Everlasting Father

Special Services

For Unto Us

Advent Service at Hope

Galatians 4:4-7

A Child Is Born

Online at FAHope.org

Advent Service at First Am.

John 3:16-21

A Son Is Given

Online at FAHope.org

Carol & Candlelight Service at

First American

Isaiah 9:2-7

A Ruler Shall Come

Christmas Eve, 7:30 pm

Christmas Day

Titus 3:4-7

A Savior Has Been Born

Monday, Dec. 25

Christmas Programs

First American:

Sun, Dec. 17th, 10:45 a.m.

Hope:

Christmas Eve, 6:00 p.m.

