

Offertory Prayer

L: God our provider,

C: **by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth.**

Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty.

Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Holy Communion

+Words of Institution

+Lord's Prayer

+Distribution Hymn

+Blessing

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW #272

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Closing Hymn

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW #239 (vss. 1 & 4)

Sending:

P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Beaver Valley Lutheran Church

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Welcome! We are glad you are with us today!!

"If you do not have a church home, you are welcome here. If you would like to become a member, contact any member or the church office."

Sunday, December 17th, 2023; 9:30 am

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements/Sharing of the Peace

Call to Worship:

L: We come from a world of darkness

C: **Into Christ's world of light.**

L: We come from a world of weariness

C: **Into God's strength and hope.**

L: We come from a slumbering world.

All: Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls and wait for the Night of the Father's Love.

Confession and Forgiveness

(All) We confess, Gracious God, that we have not always turned to you for guidance. At times, we have allowed the world's time to dominate your time. Forgive us for our sins of hurriedness and impatience. Forgive us when we have slumbered instead of remaining alert, waiting and watching for you. Forgive us for allowing the world's fears to become our fears. Shine upon us this Advent season so that we may be restored unto you. Guide us into your time. As we call upon your name, hear our prayers and give us life. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

P: And now may our God make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all. Christ promises to forgive us and strengthen our hearts in holiness that we may be blameless before our God and creator at the coming of the Lord. **(all) Amen!**

Christmas Cantata:

"Night of the Fathers Love -

The Awe and Mystery of God with Us"

Dir., Shelly Berg Acc., Gingi Hanson

Presented by the Adult Choir members of Beaver Valley Lutheran Church and First Lutheran Valley Springs

Men:

Denis Andersen

Sean Andersen

Doug Anderson

Dale Hanson

Dan Hanson

Greg Johnson

William Kruse

Rodney Lowe

Lyndon Severtson

Women Sopranos:

Janet Andersen

Emily Muller

Sally Muller

Sarah Rust

Lesley Schoolcraft

Tricia Steen

Ruth Tieszen

Kristen Vanden Hull

Women Altos:

Sylvia Benson

Georgia Backer

Sharon Fix

Linda Hengeveld

Sue Johannsen

Nancy Johnson

Susan Kruse

Kathy Reisenweber

Sally Rosin

(CCLI License #1137749)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Larry, Ann & Greg Beesley

“Light the Candle”

Prayer of the Day (All)

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.

First Lesson

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Tricia Steen

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Alleluia Verse

All Earth Is Hopeful

ELW #266 (vs. 3)

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

(Response after the announcement: Glory to you, O Lord.)

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.

(Response after the conclusion: Praise to you, O Christ.)

Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

ELW #270

Christmas Cantata: “Night of the Fathers Love - The Awe and Mystery of God with Us”

By: Pepper Choplin

Directed by: Shelly Berg

Accompanied by: Gingi Hanson

**Presented by the Adult Choir members of Beaver Valley
Lutheran Church and First Lutheran Valley Springs**



Cantata Songs:

- The Coming of the Lord
- Waiting
- Angels Are Making Their Rounds
- Night of the Father's Love
- The Shepherds' Song
- Seeking the King
- Fall on Your Knees
- Christ is Born, Nowell!



Prayers of the Church

Offering

