

but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P: May God who comes among us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

C: Amen.

Threefold Amen

Closing Hymn: *Christ Be Our Light* ELW #715

Christmas Carol: *O Come All Ye Faithful* ELW #283

Dismissal: Sunday School Children

Beaver Valley Lutheran Church

26214 484th Avenue PO Box 128 Brandon, SD 57005-0128

Pastor: Josh Schunk Cell: 701-238-2322

Website: www.beavervalleylutheran.org

E-mail: office@beavervalleylutheran.org

Phone: 605-582-3504

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 14th, 2025; 9:30 am 3rd Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - Third Candle - The Candle of Love (Blue Candle)

John The Baptist

Leader: May your hearts be filled with God’s love towards all people as you consider the life of sacrifice and encouragement of John the Baptist.

All: Thanks be to God

Last Sunday we lit the Candles of Hope and Peace.

(A person now lights the candles of Hope, and Peace)

Today is the Third Sunday of Advent and we light the Candle of Love and remember John the Baptist.

Matthew Chapter 3

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: ‘A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' Blessed are you, sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever. Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming kingdom, Jesus our Saviour and King of the ages. Blessed be God for ever.

(A person now lights the third candle)

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Lord Jesus, light of the world, John told the people to prepare, for you were very near. As Christmas grows closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome you now.

Advent Song

He Came Down

ELW #253 vs. 1

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

C: Long-expected God, we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God’s own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

Opening Hymn:

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

ELW #286

Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Call to Worship

Luke 1:45b-55

P: "My soul magnifies the Lord,

C: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

P: for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

C: for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;

P: indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

C: He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

P: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly;

C: he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

P: He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

C: according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray.

C: O God of Isaiah and John the Baptist, through all such faithful ones you proclaim the unfolding of future joy and renewed life. Strengthen our hearts to believe your advent promise that one day we will walk in the holy way of Christ, where sorrow and sighing will be no more and the journey of God’s people will be joy. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Gospel Acclamation:

All Earth is Hopeful

ELW #266 Vs. 3

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 11:2-11

(After the reading is announced: C: Glory to you, O Lord.)

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." 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? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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.' "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.

(After the reading, P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you O Christ.)

Sermon

Pastor Josh Schunk

Hymn of the Day:

Jesus Loves Me

ELW #595

Offering

Offering Hymn:

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

ELW #244

Children’s Christmas Program

Children’s Sermon

The 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,