

A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>25</sup> If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. <sup>26</sup> But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup> This is the one about whom it is written: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” <sup>28</sup> I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

### **Worship Prayer...**

*Father in heaven, I admit I am a sinner and cannot save myself, but trust only in your Son Jesus Christ—true God and true man—who died on the cross for me and rose again to give me new life now and forever. By your Holy Spirit’s power take my heart and life and make me yours; turn me from my own selfish path to always love, trust and follow Jesus. Because you love and forgive me, help me forgive and love others. And now, as we gather together as your church in this place, make us one in truth and love according to the faithful leading and unfailing promises of your living Word. In Jesus’ name....Amen!*

### **Living Word exists to...**

- ✓ *Proclaim God’s Love*
- ✓ *Expand God’s Kingdom*
- ✓ *Mature God’s People*
- ✓ *Live God’s Word!*

### **‘Come grow with us!’**

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# ***Living Word***



**Living Word Early Childhood Christmas Program**

## **Third Sunday in Advent**

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
10:00 am Service

## **WELCOME TO LIVING WORD!**

*Blue church information card is in seat pocket*

### **WE REJOICE IN GOD'S LOVE & FORGIVENESS...**

Opening Prayer

Praise Song

*"Oh, Come All Ye Faithful"*

Invocation

Confession & Forgiveness

*On screen*

Affirmation of Faith:

*Apostles' Creed*

### **WE RECEIVE GOD'S WORD...**

Today's Psalm

*Psalm 85*

Scripture Readings

*Facing page*

Message Song

*"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*

Children's Message with Mrs. Diana

**Children are dismissed for Children's Church with Mrs. Diana**

Meditation

*"Rejoice"*

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL...**

Prayers of God's People

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Closing Song

*"Away in a Manger"*

Living Word Early Childhood Christmas Program

*See Insert*

*Please place offerings in basket at sanctuary entrance*

## **Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

<sup>14</sup> Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. <sup>16</sup> On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. <sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." <sup>18</sup> "I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. <sup>19</sup> At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. <sup>20</sup> At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

## **Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## **Gospel Reading: Luke 7:18-28**

<sup>18</sup> John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, <sup>19</sup> he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" <sup>20</sup> When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'" <sup>21</sup> At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. <sup>22</sup> So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>23</sup> Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." <sup>24</sup> After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see?