



BLESSED SACRAMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

“This psalm [126], being sung to the Lord, seems to fit the holy martyrs; but if we are members of Christ, as we ought to be, we can take these words as referring to all of us: ‘Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy.’” — St. Augustine, Sermon 31.1-2

Dear Saints,

Third Sunday of Advent

10 Dec. 2020

Please note that (again) we are meeting at a NEW LOCATION & TIME. Blessed Sacrament will be gathering from

0900 Augsburg Academy; 1000 Divine Service

Home of Ryan and Laughlin Drake
310344 N Maple, Hayden, ID 83835

Pull into their driveway, through the open gates and park in the back yard. We will assemble in their shop until we secure a more permanent location. Thank you Ryan and Laughlin for your willingness to share your home for the next few months. A true blessing. Coffee hour will alternate weeks between the Laughlin and nearby Bombaro homes.

Where is the light? Listen to the news or, worse still, watch it and there's nothing but darkness, deceit, betrayal, corruption. Our nation, our world, comes to slouch toward Gomorrah. Humanity continues to fail in its governance of humanity. Rights are violated and stripped. Laws proliferate. Restrictions multiply. Where is the light and freedom we long for? Where is the governance for the good of our souls and families?

The answer will not and cannot be found in the kingdoms of this world, notwithstanding our necessary involvement in them and responsibility to be exemplary citizens. No, the United States, much less, the United Nations, cannot broker peace resulting in abiding joy. No. Even a favorable presidency only seems to be a welcome pause to the inevitable slide. Grace, mercy, truth, peace, and love must be found elsewhere. And that is where the world's rightful Lord announces good news: God reigns through His Christ, Jesus the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit through *grace, mercy, truth, peace, and love*. This is what Advent announcers — the arrival and abiding dominion of the kingdom of God. It is in this kingdom that we find our identity grounded and our hope secured.

But it slips from our view all too easily due to the “cares of this world.” Because this is so, our Lord calls us to assemble as often as possible, certainly every Lord's Day, to reorient ourselves to His kingdom and the truth about about ourselves, namely that our citizenship is principally in heaven (that is, the kingdom of God *on earth as it is in heaven*). We are the baptized, so for us more than any other, we have nothing to fear and we can rest easy that the Lord Jesus is in control and that who and what we are is hid in God in Christ. For us, then, we are free from the identity-making machinations of this present evil age. “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Sunday Mass. Color Blue. Sermon on Ps 126: “Role Reversal” Processional: **359**; Kyrie —1, **943**; Gloria: 946; Hymn of the Day: **361**; Recessional: **362**. Psalm **126** chanted responsively during the distribution. Post-Communion Cantic: **Nunc Dimittis**.

On this day (13 Dec.), too, the Church gives thanks to God for St. Lucia, Martyr. The young virgin commemorated this day was one of many martyred under emperor Diocletian in her native Sicily in AD 304. Lucia (or Lucy, which means “light”) was put to death by the sword for distributing her dowry to the poor.

Midweek Mass. We gather at the MacPherson’s @ 4pm. The Divine Service is under an hour. Text will be St. John 1.19-28 and homily: “Wearing Elijah’s Clothes.” Homemade soup served thereafter.

Fourth Sunday of Advent. Color Blue. Sermon: Processional: **357**; Kyrie —1, **943**; Gloria: 946; Hymn of the Day: **384**; Recessional: **367**. Psalm **85** chanted responsively during the distribution. Post-Communion Cantic: **Nunc Dimittis**. Texts:

Dec. 13	Third S. in Advent	Is. 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thess. 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec. 20	Fourth S. in Advent	2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16	Psalm 89:1-5 (19-29)	Rom. 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38

Catechesis. Sunday catechesis for all will take place from 0900 - 0945. We will continue with a new lesson in “Loving the Liturgy.”

Prayers for the saints. Scott with terminal brain cancer; Sandi, a friend of the Drake family. Safe and peaceful Christmas gatherings. Julia traveling. Thanks to the Lord for Samantha and Helena.

Resources: A DAILY, 15-MINUTE, VERSE-BY-VERSE BIBLE STUDY: “The Word of the Lord Endures Forever” is a podcast hosted by Will Weedon and produced by Lutheran Public Radio. Pr Weedon will be leading a study this week on The Rich Young Man, Jesus Foretells His Death a Third Time and A Mother’s Request. Listen on-demand at thewordendures.org, the LPR mobile app, or your favorite podcast provider.

Pastor Bombaro will be on Issues, Etc. Wed. 16 Dec., speaking on the goodness of God and the problem of evil and pain. Look for his article this evening on www.1517.org on Christian rituals. He’ll also be guest host on Jonathan Fisk’s Saturday Youtube program RevFiskJ @ 0700.

Event! Advent Party at the Bombaro home Friday 18 Dec @ 5:30pm. If attending, please bring (1) a side dish or dessert; (2) a white elephant gift (under \$10) for each person playing. Holiday ham will be the main dish. There will be carol singing and merriment. No humbugs, please. Text Melinda with any questions: 619.651.5365.

Nota bene: Pastor Bombaro will depart immediately after Mass for military service in Spokane.

Gratefully yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor John