

# The Divine Service

## The Third Sunday in Advent

### December 13, 2020



## AS WE GATHER

In our Advent preparations today, John the apostle and evangelist adds his testimony along with John the Baptist, holding before us the joy of Jesus as the light who gives to all who receive Him and believe in His name the right to become children of God. Because of our Lord's continual supply of grace by His Word and Sacraments, we are enabled with Him to "greatly rejoice in the LORD"; for by His Spirit of righteousness we lead lives of holiness of faith. This holiness continually rejoices in the Lord, prays, and give thanks in all circumstances. With John the apostle and John the Baptist, we rejoice, always prepared by faith to welcome and worship our Lord and Savior, who comes to us daily with healing and deliverance.

## Call to Worship / Check In

## Words of Welcome / Theme of the Day

### Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the (✠) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

### Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.

People: **Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves. Make us truly repentant, that we may receive the holiness of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.**

Pastor: The true light has come. To all who receive Him, He makes to be the children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (✠) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## Processional Hymn "Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

### Greeting

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

### The Old Testament

*Isaiah 61:1-4;8-11*

Reader: <sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. . . . <sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice;

I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle**

Reader:

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Children's Message**

*Jeremy Becker*

#### **"The Candle Carol"**

**Light a candle for the bright Son  
God sent down from above.  
Advent news with joy we share  
In the Spirit we love. Chorus.**

**Chorus:  
Christ is in our family  
Alleluia Sing!  
Aren't you glad  
He came to be  
Our Brother and our King.**

## Holy Gospel

*John 1:6-8. 19-28*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .  
<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."  
<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Hymn of the Day "Hymn of Praise: I Love You Lord"

I love You Lord  
And I lift my voice  
To worship You  
O my soul rejoice  
Take joy my King  
In what You hear  
May it be a sweet, sweet sound  
In Your ear

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**Sermon**

**"Which One Would You Choose?"**

*Pastor Scott Henze*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**People:** 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, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will 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.

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Petitions end, "Lord in your mercy" Congregation responds, "Hear Our Prayer"*

## **Gathering of Gifts**

### **Offertory Prayer**

**Pastor:** Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People:** Amen.

***A word about Holy Communion:** We welcome to the Lord's Table all baptized Christians who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in this sacrament and believe that in this eating and drinking, we receive the forgiveness of sins and the power to amend our sinful lives. Children who have not yet been instructed may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over the chest thus indicating they will not receive the elements.*

## **Service of the Sacrament**

*Stand as you are able.*

### **Preface**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## **Proper Preface**

## Sanctus



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:  
People: **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.**

## Words of Institution

### Peace of the Lord

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
People: **And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another with the peace of the Lord.*

## Agnus Dei



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## Distribution Hymn "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" *Hsiao Family*

### Post Communion Canticle



Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what



He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-



es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -



giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## **Post-Communion Collect**

Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **Announcements**

## **Benediction**

## **Recessional Verse "Manger Throne"**

Verse 1

What kind of King would leave His throne  
In heaven to make this earth His home  
While men seek fame and great renown  
In loneliness our King comes down

Chorus 1

Jesus Jesus precious One  
How we thank You that You've come  
Jesus Jesus precious One  
A manger throne for God's own Son

Verse 2

You left the sound of angels' praise  
To come for men with unkind ways  
And by this Baby's helplessness  
The power of nations is laid to rest

Verse 3

What kind of King would come so small  
From glory to a humble stall  
That dirty manger is my heart too  
I'll make it a royal throne for You



Chorus 2

Jesus Jesus precious One  
How we thank You that You've come  
Jesus Jesus precious One  
A manger throne  
My heart is a throne  
My heart is a throne for God's own Son

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## Dismissal

Pastor: Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

**People: Disciples making disciples.**

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**



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Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for children and Youth at 9:45 AM—Via Zoom

Adult Bible Study in person or livestreamed at 10:00 AM



## **Christmas Worship Schedule**

### **Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24**

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service (No Communion)

8:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service

10:30 PM Candlelight Communion Service

### **Christmas Day - Friday, December 25**

10:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion