

# **The Third Sunday in Advent**

Saturday – December 12, 2020 – 5:30 pm. Worship

Sunday – December 13, 2020 – 8:15 am. & Live-Streamed  
10:45 am. Worship



## ***Friends in Christ Lutheran Church***

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Office: (815) 941-1255 Pastor Mark Willig



# † Call to Worship †

Hymn # 347 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus  
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er

saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -

'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord

Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall

sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."  
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

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*Stand*

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

**Invocation**

*LSB 151 Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

**Exhortation**

*LSB 151 1 John 1:8–9*

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**Confession of Sins**

*LSB 151*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

## Absolution

LSB 151 [John 20:19-23]

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## † Service of the Word †

### Psalm 36:5-12

- P** <sup>5</sup>Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens,  
**C** **your faithfulness to the clouds.**
- P** <sup>6</sup>Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;  
your judgments are like the great deep;  
**C** **man and beast you save, O LORD.**
- P** <sup>7</sup>How precious is your steadfast love, O God!  
**C** **The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.**
- P** <sup>8</sup>They feast on the abundance of your house,  
**C** **and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**
- P** <sup>9</sup>For with you is the fountain of life;  
**C** **in your light do we see light.**
- P** <sup>10</sup>Oh, continue your steadfast love to those who know you,  
**C** **and your righteousness to the upright of heart!**
- P** <sup>11</sup>Let not the foot of arrogance come upon me,  
**C** **nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.**
- P** <sup>12</sup>There the evildoers lie fallen;  
**C** **they are thrust down, unable to rise.**
- ALL** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### Hymn # 357:6-7 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

6 O come, Thou Day – spring from on high, And cheer us by Thy  
7 O come, De – sire of na – tions, bind In one the hearts of  
draw – ing nigh; Dis – perse the gloom – y clouds of night  
all man – kind; Bid Thou our sad di – vis – ions cease,  
*Refrain*  
And death's dark sha – dows put to flight. Re – joice! Re – joice!  
And be Thy – self our King of Peace. Re – joice! Re – joice!  
Em – man – u – el Shall come to thee, O Is – ra – el!  
Em – man – u – el Shall come to thee, O Is – ra – el!

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## Salutation and Collect of the Day

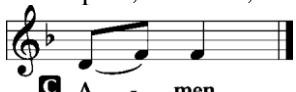
**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** 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.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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

<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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

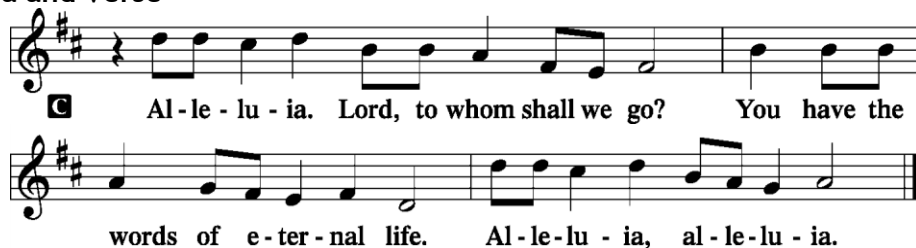
**Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24***1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

<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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

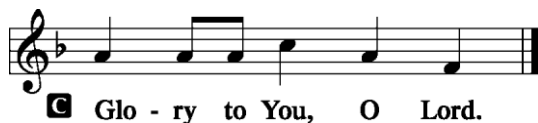
**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand***Alleluia and Verse***LSB 156*

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Holy Gospel: John 1:6-9, 19-28***John 1:6-8, 19-28*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



**C** Glo - ry 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>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>19</sup>And 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.*”

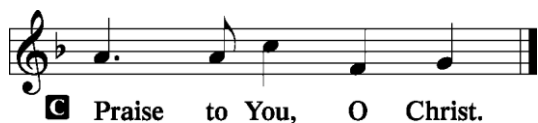
<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, “*Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?*”

<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.

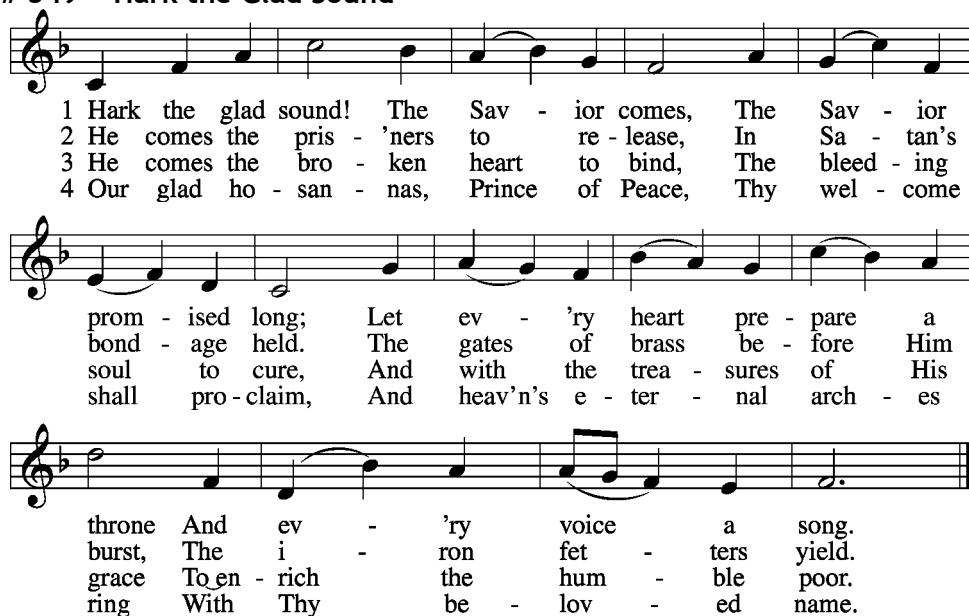
**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

## Hymn # 349 "Hark the Glad Sound"



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.

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## Sermon "The Light Was Coming Into the World" John 1:6-9, 19-28

*Stand*

### Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth.

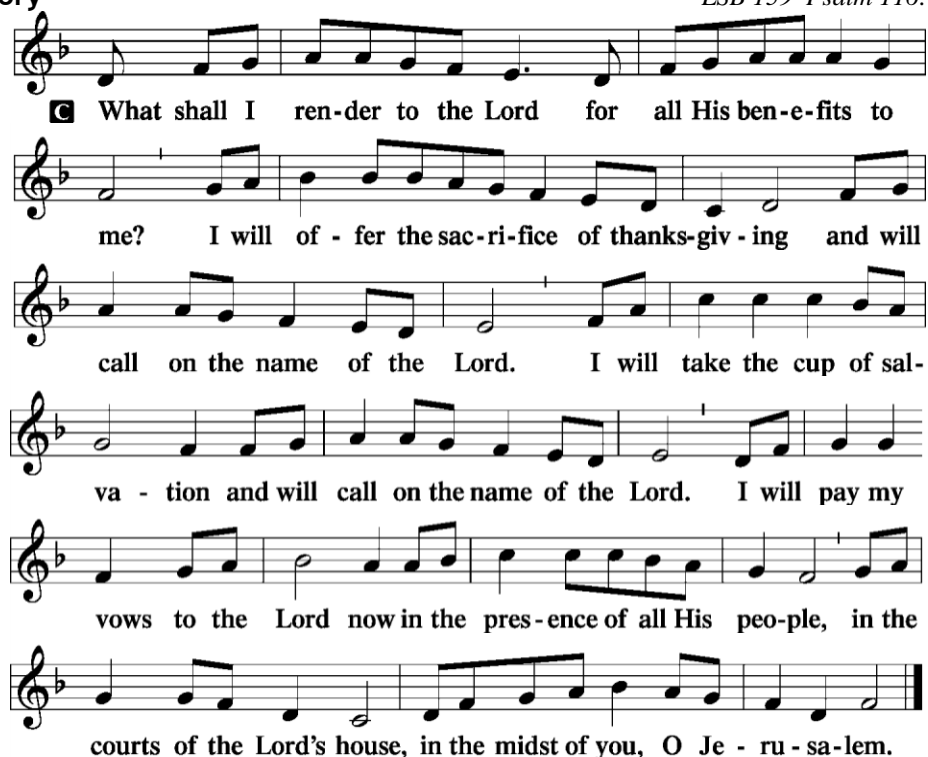
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died and was buried.  
 He descended into hell.  
 The third day He rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven  
 and sits at 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  $\dagger$  everlasting. Amen.

*Sit*

## Offertory

LSB 159 Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## Installation of Officers and Board Members

### Prayer of the Church

#### Responses:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

#### Final Petition:

- P** Hear us Father for we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, risen from the dead and reigning together with You and the Holy Spirit, now and into all eternity.

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 162 Matthew 6:9-13

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**C** **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.**

## Benediction

LSB 166 Numbers 6:24-26

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Hymn # 386 "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"

1 Now sing we, now re - joice,      Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
 2 Come from on high to me;      I can - not rise to Thee.  
 3 Now through His Son doth shine      The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.

He from whom joy stream - eth      Poor in a man-ger lies;  
 Cheer my wea-ried spir - it,      O pure and ho - ly Child;  
 Death was reign - ing o'er us      Through sin and van - i - ty

Not so bright - ly beam - eth      The sun in yon - der skies.  
 Through Thy grace and mer - it,      Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
 Till He o - pened for us      A bright e - ter - ni - ty.

Thou my Sav - ior art!      Thou my Sav - ior art!  
 Draw me un - to Thee!      Draw me un - to Thee!  
 May we praise Him there!      May we praise Him there!

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## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Settings One, Thee and Four and  
 Compline from Lutheran Service Book

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