

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 12, 2021 9:30 a.m. Worship



Friends in Christ Lutheran Church

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† Call to Worship †

Hymn #333 “Once He Came in Blessing”



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
 3 Soon will come that hour _____ When with might - y
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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Stand

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

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

Exhortation

1 John 1:8-9 LSB 151

- 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

[John 20:19-23] LSB 151

- 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 † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Psalm 85

- P** ¹Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- C** ²**You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.**
- P** ³You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.
- C** ⁴**Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!**
- P** ⁵Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- C** ⁶**Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**
- P** ⁷Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.
- C** ⁸**Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**
- P** ⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.
- C** ¹⁰**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- P** ¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- C** ¹²**Yes, the Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.**
- P** ¹³Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

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.**

Kyrie

Mark 10:47 LSB 152



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



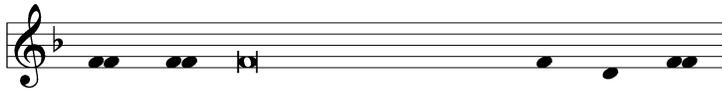
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29 LSB 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



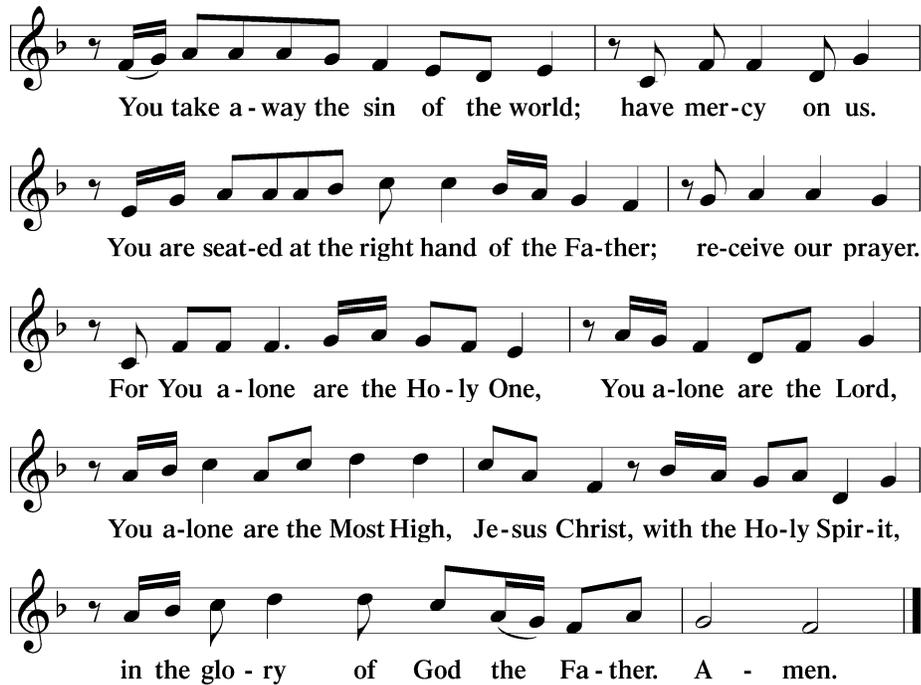
C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.

For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,

You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also 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 Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68 LSB 156

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature and contains the melody for the first line of the Alleluia. Below the staff is a 'C' time signature and the lyrics: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the". The second staff continues the melody and ends with a double bar line. Below it are the lyrics: "words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia."

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:18-28

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.”

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn #515 "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon "Preparing for the End" Philippians 4:4-7

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

Prayer of the Church

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

Final Petition:

- P** Hear us Father for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen

Stand

(Offerings are brought to the altar as we sing the Offertory)

Offertory

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



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.

Lord's Prayer

- 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.

