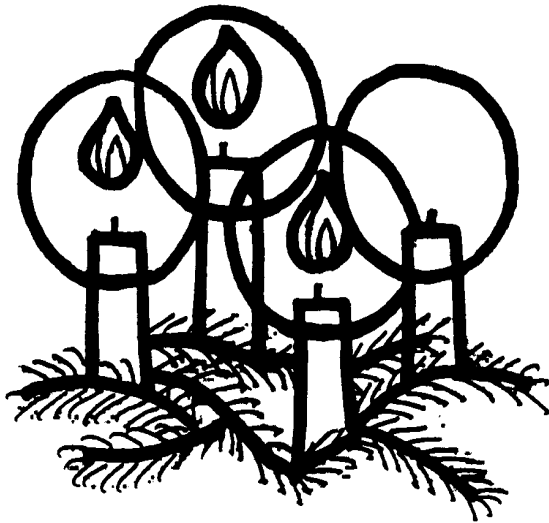


THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

READY FOR THE LORD TO COME?



Christ Lutheran Church
North St. Paul & Hugo, Minnesota
December 13, 2020

The Season of Advent

Watch! Wait! Repent! Rejoice! These are the rousing calls of the Advent season now upon us. In these weeks before Christmas we anticipate Jesus' first advent, or coming, as our Savior at Christmas. But we also wait in expectation for his second coming as Judge on the Last Day. Between these two "advents" of our Savior, Jesus comes to waiting hearts through the Gospel in Word and Sacrament.

God bless your worship!

ORDER OF SERVICE

GATHERING SONG

Lead Us to Your Light
by Carol Browning

Please remain seated.

Singers will introduce the refrain; the congregation joins in singing it a second time and thereafter as indicated.

Refrain:

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the refrain. The first staff is in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 3/4 time. The melody consists of quarter notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6. The lyrics "Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness." are written below the notes. The second staff is identical to the first, with the lyrics "Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come." written below. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Cantor/Choir. Come, O come, O come, Emmanuel. Come with us on earth here to dwell.

C: Refrain

Cantor/Choir. Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber, banish the darkness of night.

C: Refrain

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

M: The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

C: Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

M: Today God calls us to repent of our sins and seek his pardoning grace.

Almighty and merciful Father,

**C: we confess that we are sinful and unclean by transgressing your holy will.
We have not held on to the good; we have not avoided evil; we have not always lived joyfully or prayerfully.**

Forgive us our sins for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION

M: Rejoice in the Lord, always! The Lord is near! As a called servant of our Advent Savior and by his authority, I forgive all you all your sins in the name of the Father, (†) Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

M: I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God.

C: For He has clothed me in the garments of salvation,

M: and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness.

C: Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances.

M: Three candles are lit as joy and light builds for the coming of our Savior, Jesus:

**C: He will bestow on you a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.**

As the candle is lit, the congregation sings: (Tune: CW #23)

Oh, come, O rod of Jesse's stem. From every foe de-
 li— ver them That trust your mighty pow'r to save:
 Bring them in vic- tory through the grave. *Refrain* Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

THE WORD

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-3; 10,11

*The messenger of God, Jesus, proclaims the good news of the Lord's favor.
The believer (vv.10, 11) rejoices in the good news!*

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. ¹⁰ I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

SECOND READING

I Thessalonians 5:16-24

*Paul tells us how God wants us to live—joyfully, thankfully, prayerfully, and spiritually—
as we wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil. ²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 11:10

Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8; 19-28

John the Baptist is a witness to the true Light, Jesus Christ, that was coming into the world.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in

Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" ²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know." ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Prepare the Royal Highway
CWS #702



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It



King of kings is near! Let ev - 'ry hill and
own e - ter - nal King! Palm branch - es strew be -
greet your prom - ised King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry
comes from heav'n a - bove. His rule is peace and



val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall
All lands, bow down be - fore him! All na - tions,
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness

sa - cred sto - ry:
doubt as - sail you!
now a - dore him! Ho - san - na to the
so a - bound - ing:

Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

THE SERMON Isaiah 61:1-3; 10.11

**Hear the Good News!
News that liberates!
News that delights!**

APOSTLES CREED

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there 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.**

OFFERING

The offering will be received in back

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church on earth, that her members would rejoice always in their salvation, pray without ceasing and bear witness about the light of the world that is Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those that God has appointed to civic leadership, that they would govern wisely, administer justice fairly and not abuse the authority that has been granted them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are hungry, homeless, unemployed or find themselves in any kind of need, that they find food, shelter and employment and come to know and confess God as the giver of daily bread, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are ill, those recovering and those who are homebound who cannot be with us, that they find comfort, healing, patience and the sure knowledge that Jesus will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

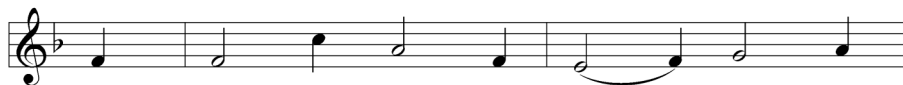
Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

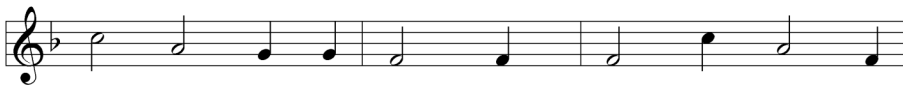
**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN

Arise, O Christian People!
 CW #14:1,2,4



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre -



pare your - selves to - day. Pre - pare to greet the
 pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -



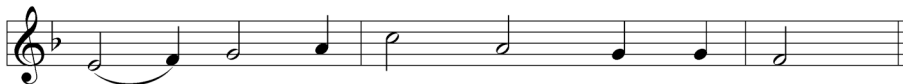
Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To
 fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make



us by grace a - lone The truth and
 straight, make plain the way: The low - ly



light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
 And help me to receive you This blessed Adventide.
 From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
 I'll sing your praises gladly And forth your glory show.

PRAYER

M: Merciful God, we thank you for once again having spoken to us through your Word. Let your Word be a light for our path, so that neither the attractions nor the worries of this life may be able to turn our thoughts from the life to come. As we now prepare to leave this house of God, let your Holy Spirit go with us, so that we may be responsive to your voice speaking to our hearts. We ask this of you in the name of Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: Amen.



CLOSING HYMN

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding
CW #15:1,4



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing; "Christ is
2 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness; You are chil - dren of the day."
last - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

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