

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 13, 2020



Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation ~ 914 Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten

- 1 Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten / Radiance of the Father's face,
Word made flesh, who lived among us / Full of truth and full of grace,
Shine upon our human darkness; / Pierce the night that shrouds our race.
- 2 Word eternal, through Your being / God created all we see,
When the empty spaces echoed / With the Father's "Let there be . . ."
Light and life burst from the glorious / Power of Your majesty!
- 3 Still Your brooding Spirit hovers / Over chaos, dark and deep,
Calling out with invitation: / "Rise, awaken from your sleep;
Christ the Lord will shine upon you / And from death your soul shall keep."
- 4 Come, Lord Jesus, by Your Spirit / In our hearts Your work begin,
Bring the healing restoration / Of Your image lost by sin;
From Your fullness all receiving / Grace on grace, new life within!

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

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.**

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.**

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

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.

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

**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.**

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

Kyrie

LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P Let Your light scatter the darkness

C **and illumine Your Church.**

Hymn - *We Light the Advent Candle*

We light the Advent candle / And wait for Christ to come.

With hope, we trust the promise / That He will bring us home.

Our hope is in our Savior / Who wins for us God's favor.

We wait with growing light / Till God makes all things right!

*We light the Advent candle / And thank the Lord for rest.
With peace, we know our Jesus / Has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing / Within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light / Till God makes all things right!*

*We light the Advent candle / And sing with cheerful heart.
With joy, we spread the message— / A blessing to impart.
Our joy is never ending; / The Son to us is sending.
We wait with growing light / Till God makes all things right!*

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Salutation and 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.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

After the reading:

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

Psalm

Psalm 126; antiphon: v. 5

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
²Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
³The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.
⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!
⁵Those who sow in tears
shall reap with shouts of joy!
⁶He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaves with him.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

After the reading:

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

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

C **Alleluia.**
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

After the reading:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day ~ 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness / With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, / Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, / Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands / With the very Bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children / With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons / With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water / To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water, / Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate, / Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious / That we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, / Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer, / Praise the One who makes us one.

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Sermon ~ "A Witness for the Light" John 1:6-9

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:9

Rite of First Communion Prior to Confirmation ~ 8 a.m. Worship

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Offering (*Online giving is available on the website.*)

Offertory

- C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

LSB 159

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

Pax Domini

LSB 163

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

- C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

Distribution in Sanctuary

Thank the Lord

LSB 164

- C **Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Post-Communion Collect

- A 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.
C **Amen.**

Benediction

LSB 166

- 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 T give you peace.
C **Amen.**

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! / "Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness, / All you children of the day!"
 - 2 Startled at the solemn warning, / Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, / Shines upon the morning skies.
 - 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected, / Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, / One and all, to be forgiv'n;
 - 4 So, when next He comes in glory / And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy / And with words of love draw near.
- D 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion / To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit / While eternal ages run!

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Postlude ~ "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring", by J S Bach, piano solo arranged by Dick Torrans.

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