

# The Lutheran Church of the Atonement

## 12/13/20 The Third Sunday of Advent

*Stand*

### Opening Versicles

Advent

260

- L This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- L Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- C **Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**
- L Prepare the way of the Lord.
- C **Make His paths straight.**
- L Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.
- C **Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**
- L From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- C **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.

### Old Testament Canticle

LSB 261

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has become my sal - va - tion.  
With joy will you draw wa - ter from the  
wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that  
day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,  
make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -  
claim that His name is ex - alt - ed."  
The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has become my sal - va - tion.

Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done

glo - rious-ly; let this be made known in all the

earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -

hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the

Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son

and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will

be for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and

He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

## Readings From Holy Scripture

### Old Testament Reading

L A reading from Isaiah, the sixty-first chapter.

<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;

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalms, hymns, or choral music may be sung between the readings.*

### Psalm Reading

*Psalm 126*

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of | Zion,\*  
    we were like | those who dream.  
<sup>2</sup>Then 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.”\*  
<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us; | we are glad.  
<sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, | O LORD,\*  
    like streams in the | Negeb!  
<sup>5</sup>Those who | sow in tears\*  
    shall reap with | shouts of joy!  
<sup>6</sup>He who goes out weeping,  
    bearing the seed for | sowing,\*  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
    bringing his | sheaves with him.

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.

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

## Epistle Reading

*I 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.

## Reading Response

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

## Gospel Reading

*John 1:6–8, 19–28*

<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.

## Reading Response

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

## Responsory

### Advent

*LSB 263*

- L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
- C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**
- L He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**
- L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

*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 T everlasting. Amen.

### 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.

### Holy Baptism - Third

C *How can water do such great things?*

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5-8)

*Sit*

### 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.

Tune and text: Public domain

### Sermon

### Offering

*Stand*

**Prayer**

- L In peace let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**  
 L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**  
 L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**  
 L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**  
 L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**  
 L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**  
 L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**  
 L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**  
 L For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy.**  
 L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:  
 C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**Collect of the Day**

- L 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.**

**Collect for the Word**

- L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
 C **Amen.**

**Morning Prayer**

- C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

**New Testament Canticle**

LSB 266

*Refrain*

**C** Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le - lu - ia.  
 lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
 Christ our Pass - o - ver Lamb has been sac - ri - ficed.

Raised from the dead, He will nev - er die a - gain.

Death has no more do - min - ion o - ver Him.

*Refrain*

Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia.

Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He

lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to

sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

*Refrain*

Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le - lu - ia.  
lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Blessing

### Benedicamus

- L Let us bless the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

LSB 267

### Benediction

- L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.  
C **Amen.**

LSB 267

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