

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DIVINE SERVICE IV
DECEMBER 13, 2020 9:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

PRAYER ON ENTERING CHURCH: *“LORD, I love the habitation of Your House and the place where Your Glory Dwells. In the multitude of Your Tender Mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your House to worship and confess Your Holy Name; through Jesus Christ, my God and LORD.”* (145)

BEFORE WORSHIP: *“O LORD, our Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as we come together to worship You in Spirit and in Truth, we humbly pray that You would open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word so that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in Grace and Holiness. Hear us for His sake, Amen.”* (146)

✠ **SERVICE OF PREPARATION** ✠
✠ **CONFESSIO & ABSOLUTION** ✠

INVOCATION [Pg. 203]

P In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen. [Matthew 28:19b, 18-20]

EXHORTATION [Pg. 203]

P Our help is in the Name of the LORD,
C Who made Heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8]

P If You, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O LORD, who could stand?
C But with You there is Forgiveness; therefore You are feared. [Psalm 130:3-4]

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the Infinite Mercy of God, our Heavenly Father, seeking His Grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be Merciful to me, a sinner. [Luke 18:3]

CONFESSIO OF SINS [Pg. 203]

C Almighty God, have Mercy upon us, Forgive us our sins, and lead us to Everlasting Life. Amen.

ABSOLUTION [Pg. 203]

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. [John 20:19-23]
C Amen.

✠ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ✠

ENTRANCE HYMN: *“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”* [LSB: 515]

1.
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers,
And let your Lights appear;
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
At midnight comes the cry.

2.
The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth as He approaches
With alleluias clear.
The Marriage Feast is waiting;
The Gates wide open stand.
Arise, O Heirs of Glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand.

3.
The Saints, Who here in patience
Their Cross and Suffrings bore,
Shall Live and Reign Forever
When sorrow is no more.
Around the Throne of Glory
The Lamb they shall behold;
In Triumph cast before Him
Their diadems of gold.

4.
Our Hope and Expectation,
O Jesus, now Appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for,
O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O LORD, to see
The Day of earth's Redemption
That sets Your People Free!

KYRIE [Pg. 204]

C (Sung) LORD have Mercy, Christ have Mercy, LORD have Mercy.

P In peace let us pray to the LORD.
C LORD, have Mercy; Christ, have Mercy; LORD, have Mercy.

P 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; Christ, have Mercy; LORD, have Mercy.

P 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; Christ, have Mercy; LORD, have Mercy.

P 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; Christ, have Mercy; LORD, have Mercy.

P For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the LORD.
C LORD, have Mercy; Christ, have Mercy; LORD, have Mercy.

P For those who labor, those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the LORD.
C LORD, have Mercy; Christ, have Mercy; LORD, have Mercy.

- P** 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; Christ, have Mercy; LORD, have Mercy.**
- P** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the LORD.
- C** **LORD, have Mercy; Christ, have Mercy; LORD, have Mercy.**
- P** 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.**
- P** Help, Save, Comfort, and Defend us Gracious LORD.
- C** **LORD, have Mercy; Christ, have Mercy; LORD, have Mercy.**
- P** Stir up Your Power, O LORD, and Come, that by Your Protection we may be Rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and Saved by Your Mighty Deliverance; for You Live and Reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ☩ one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during the season of Advent)

SALUTATION & COLLECT [Pg. 205]

- P** The LORD be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** 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: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 [Pg. 205]

“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; ² to Proclaim the Year of the LORD’s Favor, and the Day of Vengeance of our God; to Comfort all who mourn; ² 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. ² 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 . . . ⁸For 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.”

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

Psalm 85 [Pg. 205]



- R** ¹ When the LORD Restored the Fortunes of | Zion,*
we were like | those who dream.
- C** ² **Then our mouth was filled with | laughter,*
and our tongue with | shouts of Joy;**
- R** then they said among the nations, ‘The LORD has Done Great | Things for them.’*
³ The LORD has Done Great Things for us; | we are glad.
- C** ⁴ **Restore our Fortunes, | O LORD,*
like streams in the | Negeb!**
- R** ⁵ Those who | sow in tears*
shall reap with | shouts of Joy!
- C** ⁶ **He 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 Pg. 205]

‘Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from

every form of evil. ²³ 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. ²⁴ He Who Calls you is Faithful; He will surely do it.’

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

ALLELUIA VERSE [Pg. 205]

- C** **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.
C **Glory to You, O LORD.**

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the Light, that all might Believe through Him. ⁸ He was not the Light, but came to bear witness about the Light . . . ¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ²¹ And they asked him, ‘What then? Are you Elijah?’ He said, ‘I am not.’ ‘Are you the Prophet?’ And he answered, ‘No.’ ²² 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?’ ²³ 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.’ ²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, ‘Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?’ ²⁶ John answered them, ‘I baptize with water, but among you stands One you do not know, ²⁷ even He Who comes after me, the strap of Whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.’ ²⁸ 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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: *“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”* [LSB: 347]

1.
**‘Comfort, Comfort ye My People,
Speak ye Peace,’ thus saith our God;
‘Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the Peace that waits for them;
Tell Her that Her sins I cover
And Her warfare now is over.’**

2.
**Yea, Her sins our God will Pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day,
Now Her griefs have passed away;
God will Change Her pining sadness
Into Ever-Springing Gladness.**

3.
**Hark, the herald’s voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to Repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a Way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.**

4.
**Make ye straight what long was crooked; Make
the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be
True and Humble, As befits His Holy Reign.
For the Glory of the LORD
Now o’er earth is Shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.**

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH [Pg. 207]

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE [pg. 208]

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.**

PROPER PREFACE [Pg. 208]

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times ... and with all the company of Heaven we laud and magnify Your Glorious Name, Evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS [Pg. 208]

C **Holy, Holy, Holy LORD God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the Glory of Your Name.
Sing hosanna in the Highest, sing hosanna to the LORD;
Truly blest is He Who comes in the Name of the LORD.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING [Pg. 209]

P Blessed are You, O LORD our God, King of all Creation for You have had Mercy on us and given Your only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have Eternal Life. In Your Boundless Mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the Kingdom of Heaven draws near. With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, LORD Jesus,” confident that in His Body and Blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the Forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in Glory. Hear us as we pray in His Name and as He has taught us:

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD [Pg. 209]

THE PAX DOMINI [Pg. 209]

P The Peace of the LORD be with you always.
C **Amen.**

C O Jesus Christ, True Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, True Lamb of God,
Have Mercy on us, LORD, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, True Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have Mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us Peace, O LORD, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN #1: "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness" [LSB: 563]

1.
Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness
My Beauty are, my Glorious Dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With Joy shall I lift up my head.

2.
Bold shall I stand in that Great Day,
Cleansed and Redeemed, no debt to pay; Fully
Absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

3.
LORD, I Believe Thy Precious Blood,
Which at the Mercy Seat of God
Pleads for the captives' Liberty,
Was also Shed in Love for me.

4.
LORD, I Believe, were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a Ransom Paid,
For all a Full Atonement made.

5.
When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my Mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath Lived and Died for me.

6.
Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose Boundless Mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have Made,
An Everlasting Ransom Paid.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN #2: "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" [LSB: 636]

1.
Soul, adorn yourself with Gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's Splendor,
There with Joy your praises render.
Bless the One Whose Grace Unbounded
This Amazing Banquet Founded;
He, though Heav'nly, High, and Holy,
Deigns to Dwell with you most lowly.

2.
Hasten as a Bride to meet Him,
And with loving rev'ence greet Him.
For with Words of Life Immortal
He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the Gates before Him,
Saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, LORD, that I now receive You,
That I nevermore will leave You.

3.
He who craves a Precious Treasure
Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the Priceless Gifts of Heaven
God to us has Freely Given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
None could buy the Gifts here offered: Christ's
True Body, for you riven, And His Blood, for
you once Given.

4.
Now in faith I humbly ponder
Over this surpassing Wonder
That the Bread of life is boundless
Though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the Choicest Wine of Heaven
Christ's Own Blood to us is Given.
Oh, Most Glorious Consolation,
Pledge and Seal of my Salvation!

5.
Jesus, Source of Lasting Pleasure,
Truest Friend, and Dearest Treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding,
Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You;
Love Incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me Receive You
And, so favored, never leave You.

6.
Jesus, Sun of Life, my Splendor,
Jesus, Friend of friends, Most Tender,
Jesus, Joy of my Desiring,
Fount of Life, my soul Inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, My Maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this Blessed Food from Heaven,
For our Good, Your Glory, Given.

7.
LORD, by Love and Mercy Driven,
You once left Your Throne in Heaven
On the Cross for me to languish
And to Die in bitter anguish,
To forego all Joy and Gladness
And to Shed Your Blood in sadness.
By this Blood Redeemed and Living,
LORD, I praise You with Thanksgiving.

8.
Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray You,
Let me gladly here Obey You.
By Your Love I am Invited,
Be Your Love with Love requited;
By this Supper let me measure,
LORD, how vast and deep Love's Treasure.
Through the Gift of Grace You give me As
Your Guest in Heav'n Receive me.

THE DISMISSAL [Pg. 210]

P The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ Strengthen and Preserve you in body and soul to life
everlasting. Depart ☩ in Peace.
C Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS [Pg. 211]

C O LORD, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace, for I have seen the Glory Of Your
Redeeming Grace: A Light to lead the Gentiles unto Your Holy Hill, the Glory of Your People,
Your Chosen Israel.

All Glory to the Father, all Glory to the Son, all Glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One; For as in
the beginning, is now, shall ever be, God's Triune Name resounding through all eternity.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT [Pg. 212]

A 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
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.

BENEDICAMUS [Pg. 212]

A Let us bless the LORD.
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION [Pg. 212]

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be Gracious to you.
C Amen. The LORD look upon you with favor and ☩ give you Peace.

CLOSING HYMN: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" [LSB: 344]

1.
On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the LORD is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for He brings
Glad Tidings of the King of kings!

2.
Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
Make straight the Way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

3.
We hail Thee as our Savior, LORD,
Our Refuge and our Great Reward;
Without Thy Grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4.
Lay on the sick Thy Healing hand
And make the fallen Strong to stand;
Show us the Glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

5.
All praise, Eternal Son, to Thee Whose Advent sets Thy People Free,
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit Evermore.

POSTLUDE

THANKSGIVING AFTER RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT: Almighty and Everlasting God, we thank and praise You for Feeding us the Life-Giving Body and Blood of Your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send us Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths received the Holy Sacrament, we may by Faith obtain and Eternally enjoy Your Divine Grace, the Forgiveness of sins, Unity with Christ, and Life Eternal, through Jesus Christ, our LORD. (158)

FOR BLESSING ON THE WORD: LORD God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a Word of Power and Peace to Convert those not yet Your Own and to Confirm those who have come to Saving Faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have Promised, Your Word may achieve the Purpose for which You Send it; through Jesus Christ, our LORD. (150)

Coming Next Week!!!

4TH Sunday in Advent: Lessons & Carols

