

**Midweek Advent 3**  
**Wednesday, December 14, 2022**  
**11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.**



**Welcome!**

**To our guests and visitors:**

We are glad that you are here with us today!  
If you have no church home, why don't you consider joining us? Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service and enjoy a special gift for visiting with us today!

1. Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;  
Prepare to greet the Savior, who takes your sins away.  
To us by grace alone the truth and light were given;  
The promised Lord from heaven to all the world is shown.
2. Prepare the way before him; prepare for him the best.  
Cast out what would offend him, this great, this heav'nly guest.  
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,  
The heights of pride abasing, his path all even lay.
3. The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;  
Beneath his feet in terror the haughty soul shall lie.  
The heart sincere and right, that heeds God's invitation  
And makes true preparation—it is the Lord's delight.
4. Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; turn not from me aside,  
And help me to receive you this blessèd Advent-tide.  
From stall and manger low come now to dwell within me;  
I'll sing your praises gladly and forth your glory show.

## **The Invocation**

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

## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

- P: We light the third candle on the Advent wreath as a bright light that reminds us of the guidance we have in God's Word and in our Savior Jesus, the Word made flesh. The prophet Isaiah spoke of a highway prepared by God, the Way of holiness: "The redeemed shall walk there" (Isaiah 35:8-9).
- C: **Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. You were born to redeem us. Through faith in your name we walk the Way of holiness.**

P: Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

C: **Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. You alone are the way of salvation. In the power of the Spirit, guide us according to the truth of your Word.**

## **The Confession and Absolution**

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, you have given us the Way to follow, our Savior Jesus Christ. You have given us your Word to teach us the Way of salvation and to guide us in lives of service to you. We confess that we often turn away from that guidance and follow our own sinful, selfish ways. We listen to the temptations of the world instead of keeping your Word. Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

P: In mercy, God sent his Son into the world to be our Savior. Jesus took our sins onto himself and carried them to the cross, where he suffered the penalty of death in our place. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: **Lord God, guide our feet in the way of peace.**

## **Hymn**

### **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

**LSB 361**

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

## **The Prayer of the Day**

P: Almighty God, you have given us the gift of your holy Word. In its sacred pages we learn of your mighty acts of power and your promise of the Messiah as proclaimed through the prophets. In the written Word we see that promise fulfilled in the birth, life, death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. As we follow our Lord in faith, we find comfort, hope and guidance through the Holy Scriptures. Help us by your Spirit to grow stronger in faith as we read and study the Scriptures to learn all that you have done for us. Guide us according to your will. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus’ name.

C: Amen.

**Hymn**

**Hark The Glad Sound**

**LSB 349**

1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
To enrich the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With thy belovèd name.

**The Old Testament Reading**

**Isaiah 35:5-10**

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **The Epistle Reading**

### **2 Corinthians 2:14-17**

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel Reading**

### **Luke 1:67-79**

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **The Apostles' Creed**

**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 everlasting. Amen.

**The Sermon Hymn    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

**The Sermon                      Be Born in Us Today Bringing Guidance**

**The Hymn of Response    Comfort, Comfort Ye My People                      LSB 347**

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.

## The Offering

## The Prayers

- P: Lord and Savior, hear our prayers on behalf of those who are suffering from illness and loss and for those who are struggling in their relationship with you and with others. Lead them to search the Scriptures for the comfort and guidance that you alone can give. Holy Child of Bethlehem,
- C: **Be born in us today. Strengthen us through the study of your Word so that we, in turn, may give strength and hope to others.**
- P: Lord and Savior, in the Scriptures we read the words of the prophet Isaiah, who foretold that God would establish a Way of holiness, a place for the redeemed to walk. Through faith in your name, we walk that holy Way with joy! Holy Child of Bethlehem,
- C: **Be born in us today. Guide our feet in the way of peace!**
- P: Lord and Savior, you announced that you are the Way, the Truth and the Life. You are the Way of holiness proclaimed by the prophet. You alone are the Way to the Father. Holy Child of Bethlehem,
- C: **Be born in us today. Grant us grace to follow you each day. In you alone we have forgiveness, life and salvation. Lead us by the power of the Holy Spirit as we seek the guidance of your holy Word.**
- P: Holy Savior, Lord of all nations, hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise.
- C: **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

## **The Benediction**

**P:** “And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness ...

**C:** **The redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads” (Isaiah 35:8-10).**

**P:** “May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all” (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

**C:** **Amen.**

## **Closing Hymn**

## **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

**LSB 357**

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who ord'rest all thing mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
3. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!