

THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Traditional Worship Service

Saturday, December 10, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 11, 2022 - 8:30 a.m.

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN CHURCH



P: Come, Lord Jesus, our light and life.

C: **Until that day, let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

C: **The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. (Romans 13:11-12)**

P: People of God, with the assurance of these promises, let us bring our praise and prayers to God.

PRAYER

A: **Eternal God, you taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand. Keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom, and make us strong in faith, so that when Christ comes in glory to judge the earth, we may joyfully give him praise; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE SONG OF PREPARATION

“Sanctuary”

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true;

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

CONFESSION FOR THE THIRD WEEKEND OF ADVENT

P: O Holy God, who dwells in inaccessible light,

C: **Come quickly and illuminate our darkness.**

P: When the Lord comes, He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts.

C: **So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.**

P: In preparation for Christ's coming, we confess our sins to God in silence.

(Silence for personal confession)

P: God of the past, present and future, you are coming in power to bring all peoples and nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment.

C: You command us to live lives of obedience and holiness and we offer you excuses for our disobedience and sinfulness. You call us to love you with heart, soul, mind and strength and we praise you with our lips while our hearts are far from you. Lord God, have mercy on us, forgive us, grant us the grace of true repentance and prepare us for Your return in power and glory.

THE ABSOLUTION

THE HYMN OF ANTICIPATION

"Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus"

Cel. #244

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

P: The Old Testament Reading for the third Sunday in Advent is from the 35th chapter of Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

James 5:7-11

P: The Epistle Reading is from the fifth chapter of James. Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so

that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

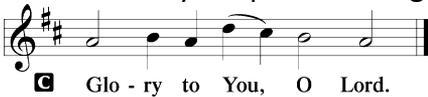


Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-15

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' Truly, I say to you,

among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES CREED

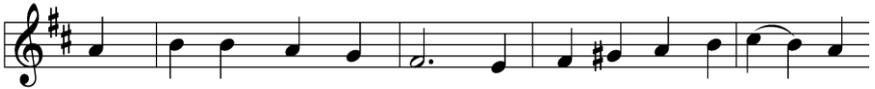
C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from 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 everlasting.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN "When All the World Was Cursed" #346

1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na-tion,
 2 Be-fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy-ful meet-ing,
 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic-ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
 Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
 The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
 By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
 That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
 He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
 Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

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MESSAGE

“New World, New Life”

VOLUNTARY (5:30) “Musical Offering” Diane Magill
(8:30) “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
Steve Bow, Chuck Degenhardt

As we listen to the Voluntary, we ask that each worship household fill out the attendance “Green Card,” located in your ministry folder. Please place them in the offering plate when you leave. Thank you.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord, in your mercy...
C: hear our prayer.

THE PREFACE



P The Lord be with you.

C And al-so 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.

THE PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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 LORD'S PRAYER

A: 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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

THE AGNUS DEI



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of

God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joyce and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is -
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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 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. Amen.

BENEDICTION



A - - - men.

CLOSING HYMN

"Once He Came in Blessing"

#333



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
 3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"



Children's Christmas Service
Wednesday, December 14th at 7 PM

Advent Service
Wednesday, December 21st at 7 PM

Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24th
Contemporary Candlelight service at 5 PM
Traditional Candlelight service at 7 PM
Traditional Candlelight service at 11 PM

Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25th at 10 AM

New Year's Eve
Saturday, December 31st at 5:30 PM

New Year's Day
Sunday, January 1, 2023 at 10 AM