



## Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2020

### Prelude

**Hymn:** Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Lutheran Service Book 345

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INVOCATION

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

**C: Amen.**

### OPENING PRAYER

P: Holy God of Joy,

We rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. But our *joy* is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. And we give you thanks.

**All: Amen.**

### OFFERING OF CONFESSION

P: Let us confess our sins before God our Father,

*(Based on Luke 1:46-56)*

P: When our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness,

**C: Forgive us, O God.**

P: When we ignore the mighty things you have done, When we doubt your mercy,

**C: Forgive us, O God.**

P: When we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts,

**C: When our power rests on the oppression of others,**

P: When our wealth causes others to go hungry,

**C: Forgive us, O God.**

*(silence)*

P: Help us, your servants, according to the promises you have made.

## GIFT OF ABSOLUTION

P: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus was given to die for us and forgive us all our 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. Join with joy in the faithfulness of His fellowship with you.

**C: Amen**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you,  
trusting that this is how you made us:  
you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.  
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

## SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C: And also with you!**

P: We greet one another in the peace of the Lord.

*You are welcome to greet each other as forgiven brothers and sisters in Jesus, in your homes and in our chat, or send a text to someone you know sharing the peace of Jesus is for them.*

## READINGS

A Reading from Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

**61** The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,<sup>[a]</sup>  
<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> and provide for those who grieve in Zion—  
to bestow on them a crown of beauty  
instead of ashes,  
the oil of joy  
instead of mourning,  
and a garment of praise  
instead of a spirit of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,

a planting of the Lord  
for the display of his splendor.

<sup>4</sup> They will rebuild the ancient ruins  
and restore the places long devastated;  
they will renew the ruined cities  
that have been devastated for generations.

<sup>8</sup> “For I, the Lord, love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing.  
In my faithfulness I will reward my people  
and make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their descendants will be known among the nations  
and their offspring among the peoples.  
All who see them will acknowledge  
that they are a people the Lord has blessed.”

<sup>10</sup> I delight greatly in the Lord;  
my soul rejoices in my God.  
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation  
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,  
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the soil makes the sprout come up  
and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness  
and praise spring up before all nations.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

A Reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray continually, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup> but test them all; hold on to what is good, <sup>22</sup> reject every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup> May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

A: The Holy Gospel according St. Luke, the 1<sup>ST</sup> Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.  
<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful  
<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”  
<sup>56</sup> Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**Song:** That's Why We Praise Him

#### SERMON

P: Let us confess our faith together using the words of the 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 there 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.**

**Hymn:** Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Lutheran Service Book 347

#### PRAYERS

A: Lord in Your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: In deepest joy, we pray:

**ALL: 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 for ever and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

A: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Song:** King Of Kings

Pastor: Rev. Andrew Thompson

Special Guest: Sheila Schlecte

Music: Gundermann Family, Bruce Anderson and Jim Radtke

Lector: Katie Miller

Production: Dan Savard

Music | Liturgy:

Hymns from *Lutheran Service Book*

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“Opening Prayer” & “Confession” Joanna Harader

“Candle Prayer” Jeanyne Slettom