

*Third Sunday in Advent*  
*December 13, 2020*  
*7:30 Service*



<https://hips.hearstapps.com/hmg-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/images/farmhouse-christmas-decorating-ideas-1567623487.jpg>

**+ PREPARATION +**

**PRESERVICE MUSIC** "Prepare the Royal Highway" (arr. Behnke) & "What Child is This" (arr. Culli)

**MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH**

For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

**INVOCATION**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**P** Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.

**C** **Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves. Make us truly repentant, that we may receive the holiness of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.**

**P** The true light has come. To all who receive Him, He makes to be the children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

**C** **the light no darkness can overcome.**

**P** Let Your light scatter the darkness

**C** **and illumine Your Church.**

**WE LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE**

*sts. 1–3*

1 We light the Advent candle  
And wait for Christ to come.  
With hope, we trust the promise  
That He will bring us home.  
Our hope is in our Savior  
Who wins for us God's favor.  
We wait with growing light  
Till God makes all things right!

2 We light the Advent candle  
And thank the Lord for rest.  
With peace, we know our Jesus  
Has come to be our guest.  
This peace beyond all knowing  
Within our hearts is glowing.  
We wait with growing light  
Till God makes all things right!

3 We light the Advent candle  
And sing with cheerful heart.  
With joy, we spread the message—  
A blessing to impart.  
Our joy is never ending;  
The Son to us is sending.  
We wait with growing light  
Till God makes all things right!

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## + WORD +

### SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. 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 READING

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

<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; 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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### PSALM

*Psalms 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.

## EPISTLE

1 *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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 1:6–8, 19–28*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<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.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### 345 HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!  
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.  
“Cast away the works of darkness,  
All you children of the day!”
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heav’n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all, to be forgiv’n;
- 4 So, when next He comes in glory  
And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with His mercy  
And with words of love draw near.

△ 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion  
To the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit  
While eternal ages run!

**SERMON** “We'll be home for Christmas” Psalm 126

**CREED** Nicene Creed (*Creed can be found on the screens.*)

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*After each petition, please respond with the following:*

**P** Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayer:*

**C** **Amen.**

## **+ SACRAMENT +**

## **PREFACE**

**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**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## **SANCTUS**

*LSB 161*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **WORDS OF OUR LORD**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## PAX DOMINI

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

### + DISTRIBUTION +

## 636 SOUL, ADORN YOURSELF WITH GLADNESS

sts. 1–2, 8

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'rence 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.

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.

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## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **BENEDICTION**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

## **338 COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS**

- 1 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 ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 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.

## **POSTLUDE** "Lift Up Ye Heads" (arr. Behnke)

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### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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## Congregation at Prayer and Devotions for the Week

Invocation In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Introit (found on front page)

Catechism Review (found on front page)

Meditation: Portals of Prayer, [www.lhm.org/dailydevotions](http://www.lhm.org/dailydevotions), Other

### *Daily Scripture Readings*

Sunday: Isaiah 29:15-30:14; Revelation 1:1-20

Monday: Isaiah 30:15-26; Revelation 2:1-29

Tuesday: Isaiah 30:27-31:9; Revelation 3:1-22

Wednesday: Isaiah 32:1-20; Revelation 4:1-11

Thursday: Isaiah 33:1-24; Revelation 5:1-14

Friday: Isaiah 34:1-2, 8-35:10; Revelation 6:1-17

Saturday: Isaiah 40:1-17; Revelation 7:1-17

### *In Our Prayers This Week (as of Thursday morning)*

Roger, health issues

Bill, recovery

Larry, heart issues

Becky, back pain

Camilla, 7-year-old with brain cancer

Jack, ongoing health issues

Dave, recovery

Eunice, Health Issues

Jim, Alzheimer's

Roger, hospice

Anna, recovering

Larry, health issues

Sidney, granddaughter of Steinke's with medical issues

Al, health issues

Linda, brain cancer

Dennis, hospitalized

Julie, pancreatic cancer

Carrie, healing from a stroke

Vonna's mother

Lauren's mother

Chris, recovering after a fall

Brent, hospital

Jackie's grandmother

Carole, Covid

Ross, Covid

For those in nursing homes, medical professionals, those whose employment is in question, and that the Lord would miraculously make all signs of this virus disappear so all may know it is by His merciful hand. For peace and humility to dwell in the hearts of the people of our land.

**Our Savior Families:** Bill, Robert & Sharon, Janice, Andrew & Priscilla, Bonnie, Jerry & Jean

**Hymn of the Week** "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" LSB 345

Collect (found on front page)

**Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, Benediction**