

Worship Service for Advent 3

December 20, 2023

Theme of the Day: Oh to be numbered on a flight with the confirmed. Oh to have our very own seat number and departure time. Oh to be guaranteed that we're on the flight going home! Don't worry. Paul assures us that we have a ticket to ride!

CALL TO WORSHIP

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

C Amen.

P Sing to the LORD a new song;

C **Sing to the LORD, all the earth.**

P Sing to the LORD, praise his name;

C **Proclaim his salvation day after day.**

P Declare his glory among the nations,

C **His marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise.**

P Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;

C **Let the sea resound, and all that is in it;**

P Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them.

C **Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy; They will sing before the LORD, for he comes,**

P He comes to judge the earth.

C **He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his truth.**

P Lo! He comes with clouds descending.

C **Once for every sinner slain.**

P Thousand, thousand saints attending;

C **Swell the triumph of his train. Alleluia!**

P Christ the Lord returns to reign!

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LSB # 357 v.1-3

Confession and Absolution:

P "We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him." (1 Thessalonians 4:14)

C **And yet, O God, our minds are often a bucket without a bottom;**

P With no spiritual understanding;

C **With no desire for the Lord's Day;**

P Ever learning but never reaching the truth;

C **Always at the gospel-well but never holding water.**

P My conscience is without conviction or contrition;

C **My heart is without love, and full of leaks.**

P My memory has no retention,

C **So I forget the lessons learned,**

P And your truth seeps away.

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

P The blood of Jesus atones for your sin. His death delivers you from guilt and shame. His resurrection guarantees your resurrection. And his coming again will save you to the uttermost. For the blessed apostle Paul writes, "We who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever." (1 Thessalonians 4:17) *Maran-atha!* (This is an Aramaic expression, appearing in 1 Corinthians 16:22, and meaning "Our Lord, come!")

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LSB # 357 v.4-7

Prayer of the Day:

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.

Scripture Readings:

Isaiah 26:19-21

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Mark 13:21-31

Sermon: You've Got a Ticket to Ride!

Hymn: "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" LSB #

336 v. 1-2

Prayers:

P "After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18)

P Heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for the promised return of Christ, our Lord. And so we pray, come, long-expected Jesus.

C **Excite in us wonder and awe as we place our hope in your Second Advent.**

P Come, long-expected Jesus.

C **Excite in us a hunger for peace: peace in the world, peace in our homes and peace in our church.**

P Come, long-expected Jesus.

C **Excite in us a yearning for joy; joy in serving you, joy in our daily duties and joy even in the midst of suffering and pain.**

P Come, long-expected Jesus.
C **Excite in us a longing to show more love; love towards our spouses and children, love for our world and love for those who grieve with no hope.**

P Yea, amen, let all adore Thee.
C **High on Thine eternal throne.**
P Savior take the power and glory,
C **Claim the kingdom as your own. Alleluia!**
P Thou shalt reign and Thou alone!

Hymn: "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" LSB # 336 v. 3-4

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction:

P "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.
C **The one who calls us is faithful and he will do it."**

Hymn: "Abide with Me" LSB # 878 v. 1-2, 5-6

Silent Prayer: Lord Jesus, I fall down before you in wonder and praise, for by your grace I most certainly have a ticket to ride! Amen and amen!