

Third Sunday in Advent
December 13, 2020
St. Johns Lutheran Church, Park Rapids, MN

The Opening Hymn

“Hark the Glad Sound” LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Tune and text: Public domain

Invocation, Responses and Confession

LSB 151

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your 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.

C: Amen.

The Introit

Ps. 85:8-9, 12-13

P: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

C: and grant us your salvation. *Ps. 85:3*

P: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,

C: for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

P: Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

C: that glory may dwell in our land.

P: Yes, the Lord will give what is good,

C: and our land will yield its increase.

P: Righteousness will go before him

C: and make his footsteps a way.

A: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

C: and grant us your salvation. *Ps. 85:3*

**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!**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

A moment of silence is given for personal prayers.

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

¹The 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;
²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to 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.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .
⁸For 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.
⁹Their 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.
¹⁰I 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.

¹¹For 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all
circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not
quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold
fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now 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. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Anthem

"What Child is This?" - Jillian Neubauer (Piano)

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a common time signature (C) and contains the melody for the first line of the Alleluia and Verse. The second staff continues the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

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

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

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These 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.**

The Sermon Hymn

“Come, We That Love the Lord” LSB 669



1 Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be
2 Let those re - fuse to sing Who nev - er knew our
3 The hill of Zi - on yields A thou - sand sa - cred
4 Then let our songs a - bound, And ev - 'ry tear be



known; Join in a song with sweet ac - cord,
God; But chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King,
sweets Be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields,
dry; We're march - ing through Em - man - uel's ground,



Join in a song with sweet ac - cord And thus sur -
But chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King May speak their
Be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, Or walk the
We're march - ing through Em - man - uel's ground To fair - er



round the throne, And thus sur - round the throne.
joys a - broad, May speak their joys a - broad.
gold - en streets, Or walk the gold - en streets.
worlds on high, To fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain



We're march - ing to Zi - on, Beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on;



We're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, The beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Sermon

The Lord's Favor
Isaiah 61 & 62

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 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.

Offering and Announcements

Prayer of the Church and the Lord's Prayer

Benediction

LSB 166

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.

The Closing Hymn

“Joy to the World” LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Sacrament

LSB 160

Preface

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☐ 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



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

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. ...

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 Words of Our Lord

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, ... This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

LSB 163

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

C: Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

☐ 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.

Please be seated. An usher will dismiss you for communion. Please remember social distancing and wear your mask until you reach the table for communion.



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion, And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

“Angels We Have Heard on High” LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' - n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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