

# THE THIRD MIDWEEK SERVICE OF ADVENT

December 16, 2020

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**PRELUDE** "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne" arr. D. Wagner

## WELCOME

*Stand*

**HYMN** "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied" **LSB 342**



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,  
3 As ban-ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
4 Come, Je - sus, come. Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

## INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Isaiah 11:1; Romans 6:4; Matthew 3:17*

**P** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

**C** and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

**P** We were buried therefore with Him

**C** by baptism into death, in order that,

**P** just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,

**C** **we too might walk in newness of life.**

**P** Behold, a voice from heaven said,

**C** **"This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."**

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

**P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:

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

**P** All those who await His appearance pray:

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

**P** The whole creation pleads:

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

**P** Awaiting the shoot from the stump of Jesse, we implore:

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

## HYMN

### "O Light Whose Splendor"

**LSB 891**



1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens  
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,  
3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,



With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,  
And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,  
Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,



Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,  
In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es  
O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,



O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;  
To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.  
Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who revealed who Jesus truly is, bringing to light His identity as You proclaimed, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

### PSALM 141

*LSB p. 245*



**I** Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;

let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.

**II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.

Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in

the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,

the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

*Sit*

**FIRST READING**

*Romans 6:1–11*

**P** A reading from Romans, the sixth chapter.

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in

order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

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

## SECOND READING

*Matthew 3:13–17*

**P** A reading from Matthew, the third chapter.

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

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

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

**P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

**HYMN**

"My Soul Rejoices"

**LSB 933**



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the  
great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He  
fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion  
bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the  
ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the  
sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring  
Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

*Stand*

**LITANY**

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For district presidents, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For President Trump, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**C** **Alleluia.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

**P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

**C** **To You, O Lord.**

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER, As printed on the forward screens**

*Sit*

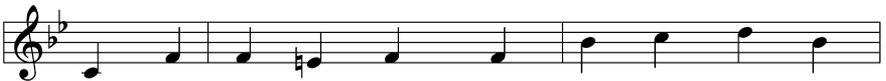
**HYMN**

"To Jordan's River Came Our Lord"

**LSB 405**



1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The Christ, whom  
2 The Sav - ior came to be bap - tized— The Son of  
3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood And John bap -  
4 Then from God's throne with thun - d'rous sound Came God's own



heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The God from God, the  
God in flesh dis - guised— To stand be - neath the  
tized the Lamb of God, The Ho - ly Spir - it,  
voice with words pro - found: "This is My Son," was





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,  
 3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres - sion,  
 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.  
 Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.  
 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,  
 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,  
 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:  
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.  
 Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

**POSTLUDE**

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

arr. L. Smith

**PARTICIPATING IN THIS SERVICE**

*Pastor: Rev. Richard Willsea*

*Deaconess: Karen Suter*

*Organist: Patty Barnes*

**Acknowledgments**

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