

December 12, 2021

*Third Sunday in
Advent*



**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

1600 Old Trolley Rd
Summerville, SC
29485-8275

Office:
(843) 871-5444

Fax:
(843) 871-5763

E-mail:
office@
gracesummerville.org

Website:
[www.gracesummerville](http://www.gracesummerville.org)
.org

Worship:

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Communion:
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Adult Bible Study &
Sunday School:
9:30 am
(Grace Hall)

Pastor:
Richard Willsea

Deaconess:
Karen Suter

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 12, 2021

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRELUDE

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

setting: D. Johnson

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

setting: J. Brauer

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

LSB 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

INVOCATION

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

G Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Zephaniah 3:14a, 15b; 16b–17, 20

- P** Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart.
- C** **The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.**
- P** “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.
- C** **The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;**
- P** He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;
- C** **He will exult over you with loud singing.**
- P** I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.
- C** **We worship You, O Lord!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Three Advent candles are lit.

- P** Let us pray. O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God’s new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

- P** We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have wandered from You. Our wonderings have at times turned into doubts that drew us away from You.
- C** **Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

- P** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
- G** **according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

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.

G **Amen.**

† **SERVICE OF THE WORD** †

KYRIE

LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ,

C we implore You to hear our prayers

P and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation;

C for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14–20

The Word is read...

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 85; antiphon: v.2

- A** You forgave the iniquity of Your people;
You covered all their sin.
- C** **LORD, You were favorable to Your land;
You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

- A** You forgave the iniquity of Your people;
You covered all their sin.
- C** **You withdrew all Your wrath;
You turned from Your hot anger.**

- A** Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away Your indignation toward us!
- C** **Will You be angry with us forever?
Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?**

- A** Will You not revive us again,
that Your people may rejoice in You?
- C** **Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us Your salvation.**

- A** Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.
- C** **Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
that glory may dwell in our land.**

- A** Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

C Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

A Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

C Righteousness will go before Him
and make His footsteps a way.

**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.**

A You forgave the iniquity of Your people;
You covered all their sin.

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4–7

The Word is read...

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Billy Milam

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!

Verse: 4 Always be filled with joy in the Lord. I will say it again. Be filled with joy. 5 Let everyone see that you are gentle and kind. The Lord is coming soon. 6 Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have. 7 And because you belong to Christ Jesus, God's peace will stand guard over all your thoughts and feelings. His peace can do this far better than our human minds. Philippians 4:4-7 (ERV)

Stand

VERSE

P Alleluia! Alleluia!

C Alleluia! Alleluia!

P Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,

- C** who will prepare Your way before You.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:18–28

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Gospel is read...

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

LSB 803



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
 △ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
 Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
 Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
 Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
 Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy-ful, we by grace are Thine!

SERMON

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS BY TRANSFER OR PROFESSION OF FAITH

P Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles: "Whoever confesses Me before men, I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." Lift up your hearts, therefore, to the God of all grace and joyfully give answer to what I now ask you in the name of the Lord.

P Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation acknowledge the gifts that God gave you in your Baptism?

R *Yes, I do.*

P Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, and in the Holy Spirit?

R *Yes, I believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

P Do you hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, drawn from them and confessed in the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true?

R *I do.*

P Do you intend to hear the Word of God and receive the Lord's Supper faithfully?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to live according to the Word of God, and in faith, word, and deed to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

R *I do, by the grace of God.*

P Do you desire to become a member of this congregation?

R *I do.*

P Will you support the work our gracious Lord has given this congregation with your prayers and the gifts God has given you?

R *I will, with the help of God.*

P Upon this your confession of faith, I acknowledge publicly that you are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation. Receive the Lord's Supper and participate with us in all the blessings of salvation that our Lord has given to His Church, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Stand

P Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness in bringing these Your sons and daughters to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling them both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving name. Grant that by Your Word and Spirit they may continue steadfast in the one true faith in the fellowship of this congregation as together we await the day when all who have fought the good fight of faith shall receive the crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The pastor may extend the right hand of fellowship, greeting each by name. The rite concludes with the following blessing:

P The grace of our ☩ Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

C **Amen.**

The new members return to their places.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

A brief time of silence may be observed.

P O Wisdom from on high, lead us by Your Spirit to rejoice in all that You have done to demonstrate Your love for us. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to rejoice in the Lord always. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

A O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [especially .

...]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

A O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P O Lord of might, help us to see in the miracles of Jesus a sign pointing forward to that Day when He will come again in great glory to restore all creation. Help us to be instruments by which our wandering world may come to see Jesus as the one who alone brings true joy into our lives. We pray,

C **Hear us, coming Lord.**

A O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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
 forever and ever. Amen.**

Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

" Make Straight the Crooked Places"

C. Curtis

OFFERTORY

"Create in Me"

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
 a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
 from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
 and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And

the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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.

G Amen

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.

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

A Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

arr. T. Birchwood

PARTICIPATING IN THIS SERVICE

Pastor: Richard Willsea

Organist: Patty Barnes

Deaconess: Karen Suter

Acknowledgments

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