

**December 17, 2023**

*Third Sunday  
In Advent*



**GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

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Worship:  
Divine Service  
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

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

+

Pastor:  
Richard Willsea

Deaconess:  
Karen Suter

Organist  
Patty Barnes

# THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 17, 2023

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**Today we will observe The Lord's Supper...** *The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Grace Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked you first to speak with the pastor, an elder or an usher. (For further study, see Matthew 5:23f; 10:32f; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; I Cor. 11:17-34). Wine is used in the individual and common cup. It may also be received by intinction. A gluten free wafer is available upon request.*

### PRELUDE

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!"  
"Hark the Glad Sound!"

setting: J. Brauer  
arr. T. Birchwood

### WELCOME

*Stand*

### 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.

## INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

- A** I waited patiently for the LORD;
- C** He inclined to me and heard my cry.
- A** He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,
- C** and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.
- A** He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
- C** Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** That we may rejoice in the great things our forgiving God does for us, let us together confess our sins before Him.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of looking to Jesus and following Him in faith, we have gone astray by disobeying Your Word. Instead of giving bold witness to You, we have kept silent and withheld Your grace from others. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** "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. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it." Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, removing our sins from us and declaring us blameless in His

sight through faith in Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## † SERVICE OF THE WORD †

### INTROIT

**A** Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

**C** and grant us Your salvation.

**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.

**A** 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.

**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.

### KYRIE

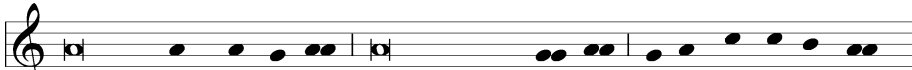
LSB 168



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



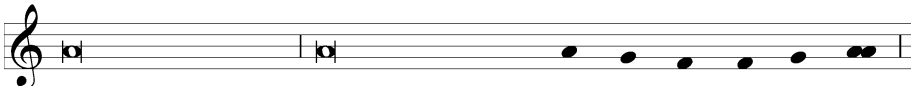
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



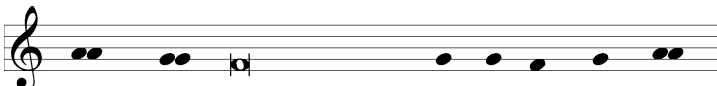
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



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 AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers.

**G** **Enable our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name;**

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

**G** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

The word is read...

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Rev. Willsea*

## EPISTLE READING

*1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

The word is read...

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## VERSE

*Matthew 11:10b*

**P** Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,

**G** **who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.**

*Stand*

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 1:6–8, 19–28*

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

**G** **Glory You, O Lord.**

The word is read...

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

## NICENE CREED

- P** The Third Sunday in Advent is a joy-filled Sunday in which we can thank God for His gracious plan for our salvation and for the Holy Spirit, who guides our lives of faith and joins us together in the community of the Church. We speak the words of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed with joyful confidence:

**C** **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.**

- P** What does this mean?

**C** **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

**In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.**

**In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.**

**On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.**

**This is most certainly true.**

*Sit*

**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!

## SERMON

*Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Because it is our Father's will for His children to pray, let us "rejoice always, pray without ceasing," giving thanks in all circumstances.
- Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, You sent Your Son into our world to bear our sin and be our Savior. By His suffering and death, by His resurrection and ascension, by His reign at Your right hand and promise to come again, we are given joyful hearts and confidently bring our prayers before Your throne of grace. Your kingdom is the eternal kingdom, O God, and we are blessed to witness to all peoples the saving work You have accomplished in Christ, our Lord and King.
- Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;
- C** **make known His deeds among the peoples!**
- A** Mighty God, stretch forth Your hand and defend Your people from all effects of sin and death, giving victory over the enemy of darkness by shining into our world the light of Your truth. Work in our midst as the mighty fortress of our lives, providing protection to those who labor for the benefit of others and to those who wear the uniform of our land. Grant wisdom to those who make, administer, and judge our laws, and reach into every troubled corner of the world to bestow upon us Your mercy and peace.
- Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;



**C tell of all His wondrous works!**

**A** Savior of the nations, by our Baptism into Your death and resurrection, You clothe us with Your righteousness and fill us with Your Spirit. You have enabled our hearts to believe and our mouths to confess Your saving name. Lord Jesus, take away from us any fear or doubt, any hesitancy or reluctance to share with others the hope that is within us. Open doors of opportunity for us to be like John the Baptist, giving faithful testimony to You and preparing the way for Your coming kingdom.

Glory in His holy name;

**C let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!**

**P** Great Physician of body and soul, take great care of all those who are suffering in physical pain, mental illness, emotional stress, and broken relationships. Comfort Your people who are sad and lonely. Warm all troubled hearts with the assurance of Your never-failing presence. Grant wholeness and healing to those in need, [especially . . .]. We give You thanks, Lord God, in all circumstances, including our struggles, for we know that You are working all things together for the good of those who love You and have been called according to Your purpose.

Seek the LORD and His strength;

**C seek His presence continually!**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, waiting in joyful expectation for Your coming kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**PAX DOMINI**

**P** Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

**OFFERING**

**VOLUNTARY**

"Thou Didst Leave thy Throne"

arr. D. Wagner



**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

✠ SERVICE OF THE 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.

**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 our sin, giving witness to the light of the world, whose coming scatters the darkness of death. 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 178

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
 pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your  
 glo - ry. 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

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.
- C** **In Your boundless mercy You sent Your witness, John the Baptist, to point us toward Christ and His coming kingdom.**
- P** With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## 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.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## AGNUS DEI

LSB 180

**C** 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, grant us peace.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"When All the World Was Cursed"

LSB 346



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.

VOLUNTARY

"When All the World Was Cursed"

Setting: M. Costello

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 182



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal-va-tion which You have pre-

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -  
 veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.  
 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.

## POST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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.

HYMN

"The Advent of Our King"

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
 Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
 And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
 The sinful self be put away,  
 The new self now put on.

△ 6 All glory to the Son,  
 Who comes to set us free,  
 With Father, Spirit, ever one  
 Through all eternity.

*Sit*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

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

## POSTLUDE

"Hosanna to the Living Lord"

setting: F. Zachow

## Acknowledgements

*Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.*

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