



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH • SCHOOL



Third
Sunday *of* Advent

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 12, 2020 - 5:00 PM

DECEMBER 13, 2020 - 10:45 AM

*(The * indicates when the congregation is to stand.)*

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN** “Hark the Glad Sound” *Hymn 349*
(Stand and face the cross as it enters the Sanctuary.)

**Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne And ev’ry voice a song.**

**He comes the pris’ners to release, In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring With Thy belovèd name.**

***THE INVOCATION CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

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

People: Amen.

***THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.

People: **Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves. Make us truly repentant, that we may receive the holiness of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.**

Vicar: The true light has come. To all who receive Him, He makes to be the children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, as a servant of the Word,

announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

***THE HYMN OF PRAISE**

“My Soul Rejoices”

Hymn 933

**My soul rejoices, My spirit voices— Sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior Has shown me favor— Sing the greatness of the Lord!**

With praise and blessing, Join in confessing

God, who is solely Mighty and holy—

O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

His mercy surely Shall rest securely

On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him—

O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

**His arm now baring, His strength declaring— Sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters— Sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted; The meek exalted. Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord! Here is the token All that was spoken
To Abr’ham’s offspring God is fulfilling— O sing the greatness of God the Lord!**

***THE SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

People: Amen.

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ²to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of

our God, to comfort all who mourn,³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations...⁸ "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity. In my faithfulness I will reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them.⁹ Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed."¹⁰ I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Be joyful always; ¹⁷pray continually; ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Do not put out the Spirit's fire; ²⁰do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹Test everything. Hold on to the good. ²²Avoid every kind of evil. ²³May 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. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

THE ANTHEM

"Come, Messiah!"
(Grace Chorale)

L. Larson

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁶There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light... ¹⁹Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ." ²¹They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" ²⁴Now some Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

[10:45] CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

*SERMON HYMN

"Rise, Shine, You People"

Hymn 825

**Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in Him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
With grace unbounded.**

**See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
Now are forgiven.**

**Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.**

To all the world go out and tell the story
Of Jesus' glory.

Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
His new creation.

THE SERMON

"Rise and Shine"

Isaiah 60:1

*PROFESSION OF FAITH - APOSTLES' CREED

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.

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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 BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

***RECESSIONAL HYMN**

“Joy to the World”

Hymn 387

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

***DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP SERVICE LEADERS

SATURDAY, 5:00 PM

The Preacher

The Rev. Charles T. Reich

The Organist

Wynn Bonner

The Lector

Jan Struck

The Usher/Greeter Team

Linda Davy, Jane Petersen

SUNDAY, 10:45 AM

The Preacher

The Rev. Charles T. Reich

The Liturgist

Vicar Michael Duffy

The Organist/Choir Director

Wynn Bonner

The Sound Technician

Rodney Steffen

The Elder on Duty

Georgia Fisher

The Lectors

Jim & Martha Martinez

The Robing Leader

Leah Welter

The Crucifer

Lillian Witcher

The Acolytes

Carldayle Brantley, Brayden Carbone

The Welcome Team Greeter

Cynthia Butt

At the Welcome Center

Heather Winchester

The Welcome Team Ushers

Donna Enzor, Steve Griffith,

Carl Rod, Larry Walker

Acknowledgments

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