

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 12, 2021

*ANNOUNCEMENTS*

*OPENING HYMN 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
  
- 2 Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

LSB Divine Service setting four pg. 203

+ *CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION* +

*Stand*

*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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.**

**KYRIE** pg 204



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

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

**OLD TESTAMENT** Zephaniah 3: 14-20 (ESV pg. 790)

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** 85: 1-13 (ESV pg. 493, spoken responsively)

P LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

C **You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.**

P You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

C **Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!**

P Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

C **Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?**

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

C **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.**

P Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

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

- P Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- C **Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**
- P Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.
- C **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.**

**EPISTLE** Philippians 4: 4-7 (ESV pg. 982)

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. 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.

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

*Stand*

**ALLELUIA AND VERSE**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter, (vs. 18-28 ESV pg. 863)
- C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’

courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.” I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## NICENE CREED

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

## HYMN OF THE DAY 347 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

- 1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people, Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover And her warfare now is over.”
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many\_a day, Now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 Hark, the herald’s voice is crying In the desert far and near,  
Calling sinners to repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked; Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord Now o’er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token That His Word is never broken.

## SERMON

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**PREFACE** *pg. 208*

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.**

**SANCTUS**



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

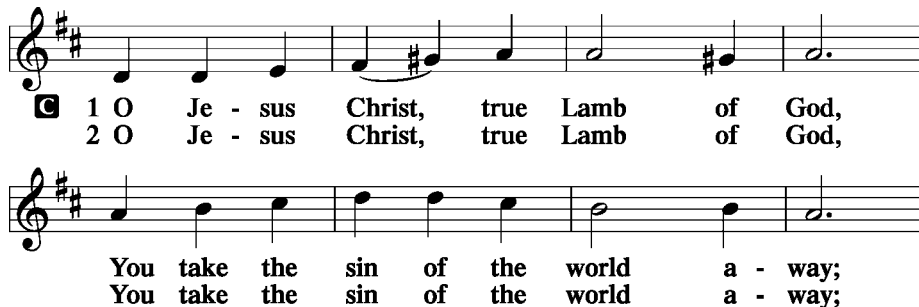
**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**PAX DOMINI**

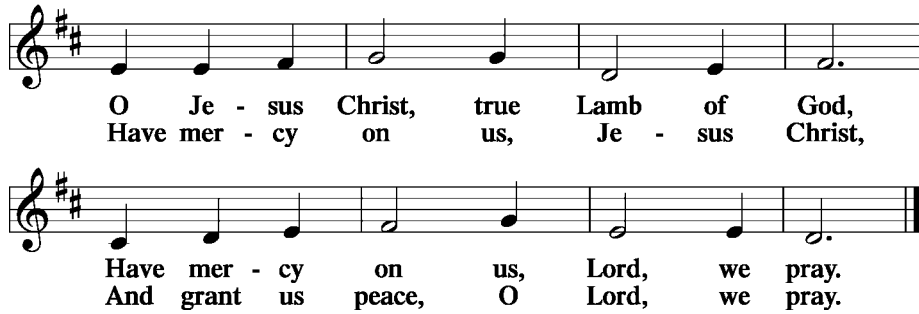
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI** *pg 210*



**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit*  
**DISTRIBUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS 340 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates***

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.  
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.
- 4 Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!
- 5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

**632 *O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee***

- 1 O Jesus, blessèd Lord, to Thee My heartfelt thanks forever be,  
Who hast so lovingly bestowed On me Thy body and Thy blood.
- 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is come to me this day!  
My Savior dwells within my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

*Stand*  
**DISMISSAL**

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.  
C **Amen.**

NUNC DIMITTIS *pg. 211*

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;  
A light to lead the the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

**BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION** *pg. 212*

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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.

## CLOSING HYMN 343 *Prepare the Royal Highway*

- 1 Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story:

*Refrain* Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!

- 2 God's people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

- 3 Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him! *Refrain*

- 4 His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

## SILENT PRAYER

Next Week's Lessons  
4th Sunday in Lent  
Micah 5: 2-5a  
Psalm 80: 1-7  
Hebrews 10: 5-10  
Luke 1: 39-45 (46-56)

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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