

## Third Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023

Greenwood, IN

## **DIVINE SERVICE III**

## 341 LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES

Stand - The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

## INVOCATION

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

# Confession and Absolution

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- **P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- **C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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.

C

Amen.

Stand

## Service of the Word



Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD, \* and grant us your sal- | vation.

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.

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,\*

that glory may dwell | in our land.

Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,\*

and our land will yield its | increase.

Righteousness will go be- | fore him\* and make his foot- | steps a way. Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,\* is now, and will be forever. | Amen. Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\* and grant us your sal- | vation.





▶ 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.



Sit

#### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. . . .For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.





Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.\* Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem. Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;\* righteous and having sal- | vation. Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.\* From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

## EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

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.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand



HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

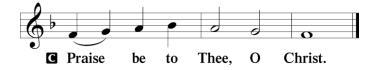


There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light....

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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



#### 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.

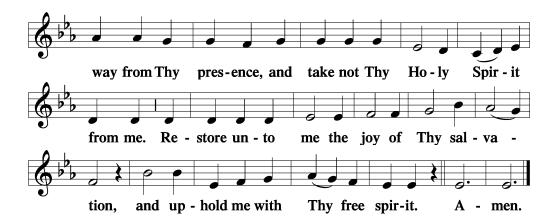
Sit

#### 346 WHEN ALL THE WORLD WAS CURSED

#### SERMON

Stand





Stand

#### **OFFERINGS AND PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

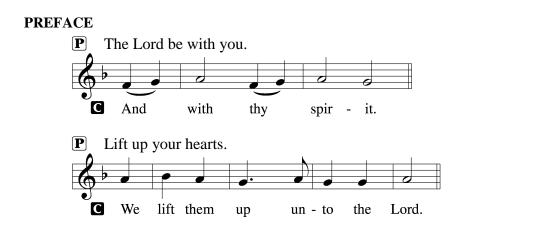
**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*After each petition:* Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

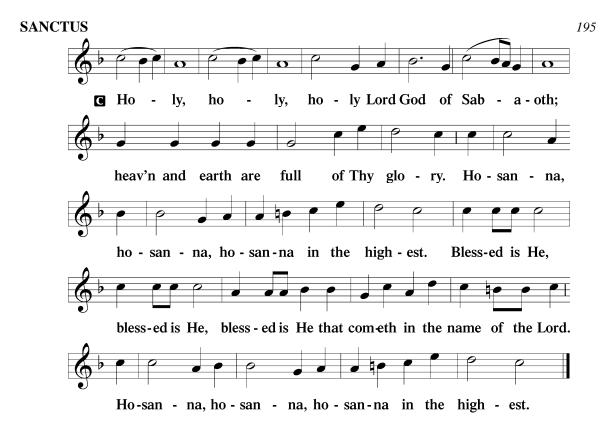


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It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



#### LORD'S PRAYER

#### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

#### **PAX DOMINI**







#### Sit

#### DISTRIBUTION

- 349 HARK THE GLAD SOUND
- 353 JESUS CAME, THE HEAVENS ADORING

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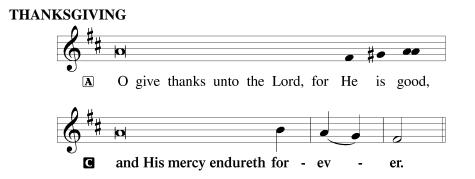
Stand

#### THE DISMISSAL

- 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 199 O Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in C peace ac-O cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, O which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people, to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry a light of Thv O peo-ple Is Glo - ry be to the Father and ra-el. O the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning, to





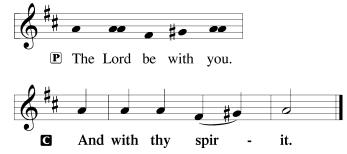
#### **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**A** 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.



SALUTATION



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#### **BENEDICTION**

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 The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.
A-men, a-men, a - men.

#### 345 HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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