



December 17, 2025

The Third Wednesday in Advent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Invocation

Therefore as you go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-19

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

♪ Jesus came, the heav’ns adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;

Jesus came to win redemption, Lowly came on earth to die;

Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.

♪ Jesus comes again in mercy When our hearts are worn with care;

Jesus comes again in answer To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;

Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.

♪ Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Bringing news of sins forgiv’n;

Jesus comes with words of gladness, Leading souls redeemed to heav’n.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv’n.

♪ Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, Shares alike our hopes and fears;

Jesus comes, whate’er befalls us, Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;

Alleluia! Alleluia! Comforts us in failing years.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 353—Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.; Text: Public domain

Opening Sentences

The Lord Himself will give you a sign.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Jeremiah 33:16

Psalmody

Psalm 85:1–4, 9–11

Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

Lord, You were favorable to Your land; You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

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

You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger.

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

Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

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

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

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.

Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,

And grant us Your salvation.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O light of the nations, Your spectacular reign is the hope of all peoples. Grant us humble hearts to anticipate the second advent and preserve us for Your kingdom, that we might declare the praises of Jesus, our coming King, to the ends of the earth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1–4, 10–11

¹The 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;

²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

³to 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.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

¹⁰I 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.

¹¹For 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Ephesians 1:15–23

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his

feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“What Child Is This”

- ♪ What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!
- ♪ Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!
- ♪ So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 370—Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98; Text: Public domain

Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Luke 1:39–56

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”

- ♪ Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.
- ♪ To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in gladness.
- ♪ We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder.
- ♪ Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 390—Text: German, 17th cent.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.;
Text: Public domain*

Proclamation of the Word

Luke 1:39–56

“We Wait For Jesus, With Jesus: Elizabeth”

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Closing Sentences

He who is mighty has done great things for me.

Holy is His name.

To God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be all honor and glory in His holy church, forever and ever.

Amen. Christ died! Christ is risen! Christ shall come again!

Luke 1:49

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Away in a Manger”

- ♪ Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- ♪ The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- ♪ Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 364—Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3):
Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.; Text: Public domain*

Postlude