



December 14, 2022

The Third Wednesday in Advent

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

♪ Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.

♪ Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.

♪ Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 374-Text: Joseph Simpson Cook 1859-1953
Tune: Piae Cantionse Ecclesiasticae, Griefswald 1582; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

This is the day that the LORD has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100

Confession and Absolution

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

Confident of receiving God's great mercy, let us confess together that we by nature are sinful and that through our thoughts, words, and deeds we have sinned against our God and deserve His punishment now and eternally.

Almighty God, we repent of our sins and ask for Your forgiving grace in our lives. Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus grant us remission of our sins so that, as Your redeemed people, we may greet you in Advent hope and with trusting hearts serve You in time and in eternity. *A Time of Silence.*

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.

Amen.

The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, Your kingdom is everlasting and Your promises are sure. Grant us grace to live with unfailing confidence, knowing that You will bring about that time when all of Your enemies are defeated and all of creation truly is at peace. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior and our King.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated Music: "Hark the Glad Sound" Hymn 349* **"In Advent Hope"**

♪ In Advent hope we gather here And worship trustingly,
Assured that Christ is coming near To set His people free.

♪ Our Advent-hope hosannas now Expectantly arise
To Jesus Christ, the Savior, King Who comes from Paradise.

♪ With Advent hope our praises be Re-echo joyfully
To greet our Lord's arrival see In His humility.

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Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1–10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;

the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God will come with vengeance,

with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;

in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

♪ Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

~Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

♪ Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! ~Hark!...

♪ Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. ~Hark!....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 380 -Text: Charles Wesley 1707-88; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn 1809-47;
Setting: William H. Cummings 1831-1915; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Holy Gospel Please Stand

Matthew 11:2–15

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk,

lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Handbell Choir *Please Be Seated*

Apostles' Creed

The Hymn

“Joy to the World”

- ♪ 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.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 387-Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Tune: George Frideric Handel 1685-1759;
Setting: Lowell Mason 1792-1872; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Proclamation of the Word

“Joyfully”

Isaiah 35:1–10

Hymn of Response

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v. 7)

- ♪ O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace.
- ~Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel Shall come to Thee, O Israel!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 357-Text: Latin 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Koln 1710; tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66; Tune: French 15th cent.; Setting: C. Winfred Douglas 1867-1944; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Each petition is concluded with the following:

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer and grant our petition.

Offering and Musical Offering

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

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.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”

♪ Rejoice, O pilgrim throng! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;

Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.

~Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

♪ With voice as full and strong As ocean's surging praise,

Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, The psalms of ancient days. ~Rejoice...

♪ With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth

Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, noblest mirth. ~Rejoice...

♪ Yet on and onward still, With hymn and chant and song,

Through gate and porch and columned aisle The hallowed pathways throng. ~Rejoice...

♪ Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array,

As pilgrims through the darkness wend Till dawns the golden day. ~Rejoice...

♪ At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest;

The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. ~Rejoice...

♪ Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore:

The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. ~Rejoice....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 813 -Text: Edward H. Plumptre 1821-91; Tune: Arthur H. Messiter 1834-1916;
Setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Postlude