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3rd Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024

Opening Hymn #66

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne
And every voice a song.

2. He comes the prisoners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

3. He comes from thickest films of vice
To clear the mental ray
And on the eyeballs of the blind
To pour celestial day.

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

5. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

Invocation

P: We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪: Amen.

Confession & 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 Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P & C O most merciful God, who has given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪Amen.

Gloria Patri

C ♪ **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

The Kyrie

C ♪ **Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Advent 3

P: *We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.*

C: **We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**

P: *We hear his call to see the light.*

C: **We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

P: *Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.*

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Three Advent candles are lit.

The Shepherd's Candle typifies the act of sharing Christ. In the Lutheran Church, pink instead of violet is permitted as the color of the third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete = "Rejoice"). [Jer. 23:3-8]

(To the Tune of "Away in a Manger")

**The flame of these candles
Brings peace to our night,
Reminds us of Jesus
The world's only Light.
The darkness is ending,
Our fears fade away,
For God, his Son sending,
Will dawn Christmas Day.**

The Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C ♪: And with thy spirit.

The Collect for the Day

P: Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪: Amen.

The First Lesson – Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The 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. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The 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. ¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹Behold, 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. ²⁰At 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.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 85

¹Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.

³You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!

⁵Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

⁶Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

⁸Let 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.

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

¹²Yes, the Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

The Second Lesson – Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel – Luke 7:18-28

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling 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?”²⁰ 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?’”²¹ In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.²² 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.²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”²⁴ 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?²⁵ 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.²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.²⁷ This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’²⁸ 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.”

Confession of Faith ***The 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 Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints The forgiveness of sins; The
resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day #60

Hark, a Thrilling Voice is Sounding

1. Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is nigh!" we hear it say;
"Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day!"
2. Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.
3. Lo, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiven,
4. That, when next He comes with glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He may shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.
5. Honor, glory, might, dominion,
To the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit,
While eternal ages run!

Sermon Text – Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon

The Coming of Jesus Enables Us to Rejoice

Offertory

3. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,

And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

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.

P: Lord, You command us not to be anxious, but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving to make our requests known to You. Give wisdom, health and success to the authorities who govern us and those newly elected. Give earthly peace in our time, even as Your Gospel gives eternally the peace that passes all understanding.

**1 Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing,
A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of ev'rything,
Your portion shall remain.**

P: Heavenly Father, You rescue the daughter of Zion from her enemies and take away the judgments against her. Look with compassion upon Your people wherever they suffer for the name of Jesus. Give them wisdom when they are pressured to compromise, provide for them when they suffer loss, give courage when they are afraid, and strengthen them in the midst of persecution until You deliver them. Preserve us in the joyful hope that You will restore all that is lost with what cannot be taken away.

**2 He is your treasure, He your joy,
Your life and light and Lord,
Your Counselor when doubts annoy,
Your shield and great reward.**

P: God of all joy, You bid us to be anxious about nothing, but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to make our requests

known to You. Forgive our anxieties, and strengthen us to examine ourselves for whatever causes us to doubt Your mercy. Guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, and hear the prayers that we offer today.

**3 Why spend the day in blank despair,
In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care;
He makes your burdens light.**

P: O God, Giver of all good gifts, look upon the households of Your people. Provide companionship for those who are alone. Strengthen the bonds of marriage. Equip parents to raise their children in love and faith. Grant that our homes may be places of joy, reasonableness, peace and prayer.

**4 Did not His love and truth and pow'r
Guard ev'ry childhood day?
And did He not in threat'ning hour
Turn dreaded ills away?**

P: Look with kindness on all people, especially those who suffer and for whom we pray: _____.

**5 He only will with patience chide,
His rod falls gently down;
And all your sins He casts aside
In ocean depths to drown.**

P: Heavenly Father, the Son of Man came eating and drinking with sinners, that He might proclaim the kingdom and welcome them in by the forgiveness of sins.

**6 His wisdom never plans in vain
Nor falters nor mistakes.
All that His counsels may ordain
A blessed ending makes.**

P: Almighty God, as You once sent messengers before the face of Jesus to prepare His way, so strengthen and encourage pastors and church workers as they make known His saving name. Open the ears of all who hear to rejoice, repent and firmly believe in Christ.

**7 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,
And trust His guiding love;
Then like a rock thy peace shall stand
Here and in heav'n above.**

P: Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus **<please stand>**, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

The 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

*P: 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.*

C ♪: Amen, Amen, Amen.

Closing Hymn #72

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising,

And soon He draweth nigh;
Up, pray and watch and wrestle!
At midnight comes the cry.

2. The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go meet Him as He cometh,
With hallelujahs clear.
The marriage-feast is waiting,
The gates wide open stand;
Up, up, ye heirs of glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand!

3. Ye saints, who here in patience
Your cross and sufferings bore,
Shall live and reign forever,
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb ye shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him
Your diadems of gold!

4. Our Hope and Expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Desire of nations,
O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption,
That brings us unto Thee!

Silent Prayer

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Portions of the Liturgy from the Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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