

# Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025

## Divine Service Setting Three

### Confession and Absolution

#### 341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the  
2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His charity  
3 How blessed the land, the city blessed, where Christ the  
4 Flung wide the portals of your heart; Make it a  
5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to

King of glory waits. The King of kings is draw - ing  
is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -  
rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py  
tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -  
Thee; here, Lord, a - bid! O en - ter with Thy grace di -

near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -  
ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of  
homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less  
ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your  
vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly

va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - jice and glad - ly sing.  
all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.  
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.  
Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.  
Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.

To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!  
E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Tune: August Lemke, 1820-1913  
Text and tune: Public domain

*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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C Amen.

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.**

*Kneel/Stand*

*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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

*Stand*

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

I will hope con- | tinually\*  
and will praise you yet | more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the day,\*  
for their number is past my | knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;\*  
I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have | taught me,\*  
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,\*  
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all | those to come.

**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.**

Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

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.**

### Kyrie

*LSB 186*

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

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

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

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 Reading**

*Isaiah 35:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

<sup>2</sup>it 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.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say 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.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then 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;

<sup>7</sup>the 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.

<sup>8</sup>And 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.

<sup>9</sup>No 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.

<sup>10</sup>And 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.

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

## Gradual

*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

*James 5:7–11*

<sup>7</sup>Be 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. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, 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.

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

*Stand*

## Alleluia

*LSB 190*

- C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 11:2–15*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.  
C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the 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. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

<sup>7</sup>As 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? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

<sup>11</sup>Truly, 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. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise be to Thee, 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*

## 346 When All the World Was Cursed



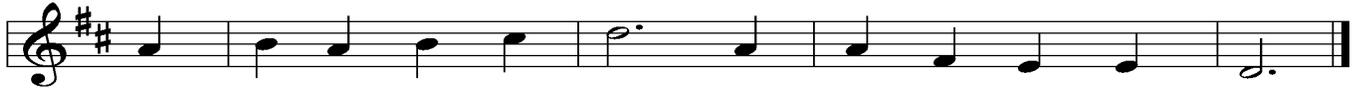
1 When all the world was cursed By Mo - ses' con - dem - na - tion,  
2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,  
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans - gres - sion,  
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re - ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.  
Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.  
Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.  
The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,  
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,  
Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,  
That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.  
 He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:  
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.  
 Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.  
 Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701  
 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002022  
 Tune: Public domain

### Sermon *Waiting Without Wondering* Text *Matthew 11:2-15*

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
 C **Amen.**

*Stand*

### Offertory

*LSB 192*

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
 Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
 Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

*Sit*

### Offering

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

*LSB 194*

P The Lord be with you.  
 C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.  
 C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.  
 C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P 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:

### Sanctus

*LSB 195*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

**C** 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 Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

LSB 197

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei

LSB 198

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

*Sit*

## Distribution

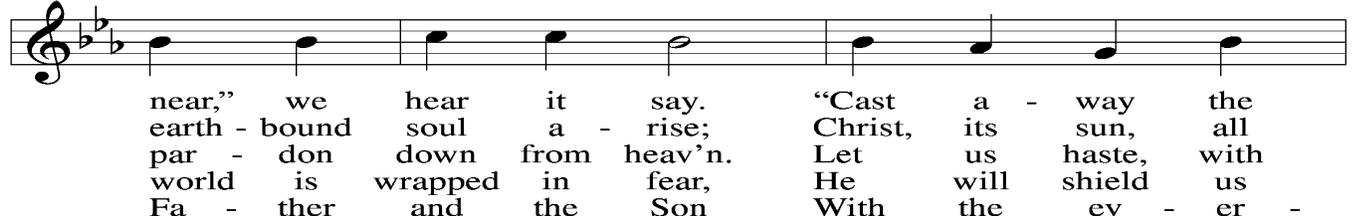
*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

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

## 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.  
 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89  
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

**Nunc Dimittis**

LSB 199

**C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,  
 for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
 a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
 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.**

**Thanksgiving**

LSB 200

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth forever.

**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.

**C Amen.**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**Benedicamus**

LSB 202

**A** Bless we the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

**Benediction**

LSB 202

**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 T give you peace.  
**C** Amen, amen, amen.

**331 The Advent of Our King**



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
 Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
 And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

D 6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, alt.  
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-76  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.