



“This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.’ 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.”

The Third Sunday of Advent  
The Joyful Expectation of our Lord’s Return in Glory

December 14<sup>th</sup>, Year of our Lord 2025

The Reverend William Foy, Pastor

About the Cover Art: Look closely at John the Baptist and what do you notice. First he stands upon a Rock and proclaims that the kingdom of God is at hand. He does that with the staff. The cross with the snake upon it is not only reminiscent of Moses’s cross with the bronze serpent, but is also the fulfillment of that foreshadowing in the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29 & 35), who is seen humbly at John’s feet. The crowd is all manner of people from nursing babes to the leaders as seen by the man with a turban. Even the gentiles are represented by the toga-wearing Roman in blue. The declaration of John was for all men. The Gospel, Jesus Christ is for all men, and especially those who will believe upon Him alone.

# Order of Worship – Divine Service - Setting 3

## Preludes -

*Time for silent prayer and preparation for confession*

**Please rise and face the procession turning to the altar when the celebrant has passed by.**

## Procession Hymn- Hark the Glad Sound

349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

## Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the 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.

## Please Kneel/Stand

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.**

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.**

## **Absolution**

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

**Please Rise**

## **Service of the Word**

**Introit (Congregation chants the bold stanzas)**



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

Let Your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\*  
The Lord | is at hand.

P LORD, You were favorable | to Your land;\*  
You restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

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

Will You not revive | us again,\*  
that Your people may re- | joice in You?

P 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.

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.**

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

Let Your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\*  
The Lord | is at hand.

## Kyrie

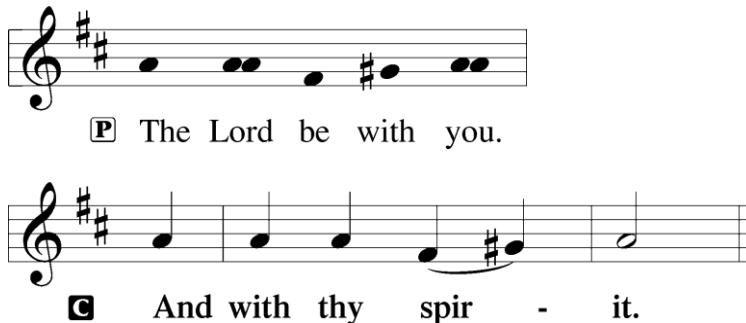
186



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

**Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent  
Salutation**

189



The Lord be with you.  
And with thy spirit - it.

## Collect of the Day – *Prayed by Pastor*

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.

***Please be seated.***

**The Old Testament:**

**Isaiah 40:1–11**

Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that her warfare is ended,  
that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,  
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the Word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good news;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;  
lift it up, fear not;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Behold your God!”

Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
and His arm rules for Him;  
behold, His reward is with Him,  
and His recompense before Him.

He will tend His flock like a shepherd;

He will gather the lambs in His arms;  
He will carry them in His bosom,  
and gently lead those that are with young.

### **Gradual - Chanted by the Cantor**

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.\*  
Stir up Your might and come to | save us!  
Give ear, O Shepherd of | Israel,\*  
You who lead Joseph | like a flock!

### **The Epistle:**

### **1 Corinthians 4:1–5**

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

*Please rise and face the procession as the Word of God enters into your midst.*

### **Alleluia**



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### **The Holy Gospel:**

### **Matthew 11:2–11**

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to Him, “Are You the One who is to come, or shall we look for another?”

And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 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. And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me.”

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? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You. ’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.

## Nicene Creed

191

**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  $\ddagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

**Hymn of the Day- Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

**345**



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!

**Sermon**

*Please rise.*

## Offertory

192

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

## Prayer of the Church – *Prayed by Pastor* Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir-it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un-to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un-to the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface – Chanted by the Pastor

### Sanctus

195

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,  
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Lord's Prayer

196

Our Father who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name,  
 Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it  
 is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly bread;  
 and forgive us our tres - pass - es as we forgive those who

tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in - to  
 temp - ta - tion, but deliver us from e - vil.  
**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the  
 glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

### The Verba - The Words Instituting the Lord's Supper

**The Words of Our Lord**

197

**Pax Domini**

198

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.

**C** A - men.

**Agnus Dei**

198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

### **What we believe: The Sacrament of the Altar**

We welcome to the Lord's Supper all those who are presently communicant members in good standing at Prince of Peace. If you have never received Holy Communion at Prince of Peace from Pastor Foy, please see him before you commune. Thank you

### **Distribution**

#### **Before coming to the Sacrament**

O Lord, who art Thou and who am I that I should place Thee in the foul sewer of my body and soul. A thousand years of tears would not make me worthy of once receiving this Blessed Sacrament. Who am I, wretched man, who daily sins, continues without amendment, and approaches in sin. But Thy mercy is infinitely greater than my misery, therefore trusting in Thee, I presume to approach. Amen.

#### **Before receiving Christ's Body**

O Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof; but speak only Your Word, and my soul will be healed. Matt.8:8

#### **Before receiving Christ's Blood**

What shall I render to the Lord, for all His benefits to me? I will take up the cup of Salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord. Ps.116:13

#### **After receiving the Sacrament**

I live, and yet not I, but Christ lives in me. (Gal.2:20)

What we have received with our mouths, O Lord, let us keep with faithful hearts, that this Gift given us in earthly time may bring us to eternal salvation. Amen.

### **Distribution Hymns – *Please be seated.***

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

344

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



## Dear Christians, one and all rejoice

556



5 God said to His beloved Son: "It's time to have

compassion. Then go, bright jewel of My crown,

And bring to all salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set  
them free; Slay bitter death  
for them that they May live  
with You forever.”

6      The Son obeyed His  
Father’s will, Was born of  
virgin mother; And God’s  
good pleasure to fulfill, He  
came to be my brother.  
His royal pow’r disguised  
He bore; A servant’s form,  
like mine, He wore To lead  
the devil captive.

7      To me He said: “Stay close  
to Me, I am your rock and  
castle. Your ransom I  
Myself will be; For you I  
strive and wrestle. For I am  
yours, and you are Mine,  
And where I am you may  
remain; The foe shall not  
divide us.

8      “Though he will shed My  
precious blood, Me of My  
life bereaving, All this I  
suffer for your good; Be  
steadfast and believing.  
Life will from death the  
vict’ry win; My innocence  
shall bear your sin, And  
you are blest forever.

9      “Now to My Father I  
depart, From earth to  
heav’n ascending, And,  
heavn’ly wisdom to impart,  
The Holy Spirit sending;  
In trouble He will comfort  
you And teach you always  
to be true And into truth  
shall guide you.

10     “What I on earth have done  
and taught Guide all your  
life and teaching; So shall  
the kingdom’s work be  
wrought And honored in  
your preaching. But watch  
lest foes with base alloy  
The heav’ly treasure  
should destroy; This final  
word I leave you.”

# When all the world was cursed

346



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

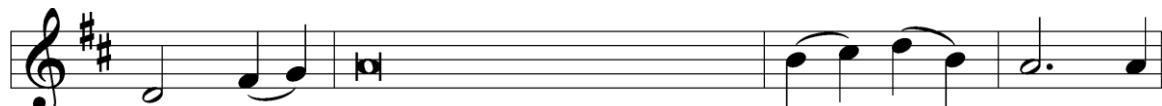


And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.  
 He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:  
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.  
 Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

*Please rise.*

# Nunc Dimitis

199



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

people Is - - - - - rael. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

200

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
 and His mercy endureth for - ev - - er.

## Post-Communion Collect

201

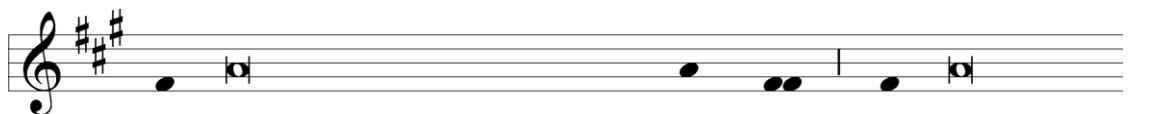
## Salutation and Benedicamus

201

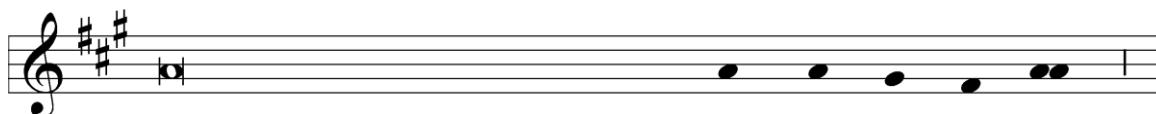
The Lord be with you.  
 And with thy spir - - it.  
 Bless we the Lord.  
 Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

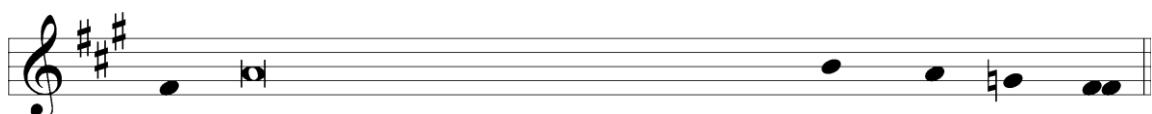
202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

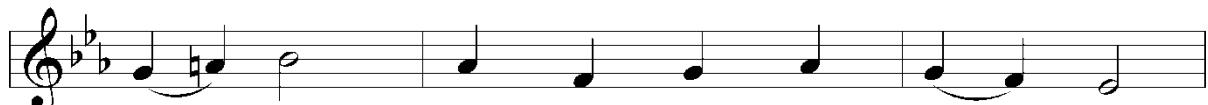
***Please face the procession until the celebrant has passed and then face back towards the altar.***

**Closing Hymn—Once He came in blessing**

333



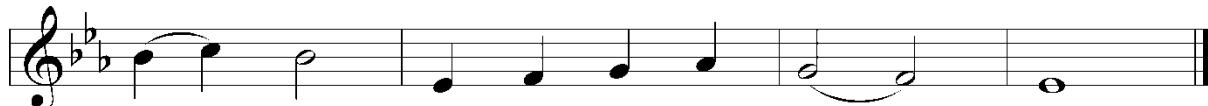
1 Once He came in blessing, All our sins re -  
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He  
 3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y  
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,  
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,  
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor  
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will  
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful  
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.  
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.  
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

***“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17).***

**Altar Flowers** are given to the glory of God for His grace and mercy which are new to us every morning and in thanksgiving for the gift of life as we celebrate Deb's birthday on Monday. The Lomas'

**Live Nativity 4:30 p.m. TONIGHT: It will be held indoors without the animals. Rehersal is immediately after service. If you can remain and help set up or help to clean up after this evening, your help will be greatly appreciate. Thank you. Pastor**

**Stockings for the Willows:** On Tuesday, December 9th, our Church delivered 65 Christmas stockings for the residents of the Willows; 35 women and 30 men. Nikki, their Activities Director, was very happy to receive them and is looking forward to passing them out. We made a small but important change this year. We found the residents that cannot eat chocolate had the same removed prior to receiving their stocking but then nothing extra replaced it. This year Nikki has the sugar free candy that was generously donated and she will trade out this candy with the chocolate before distributing our gifts so that all the residents will enjoy an equal amount of sweets. Thank you all for your generosity here.

**Mid-Week Advent Services and Soup and Salad:** There will be three mid-week services during Lent, December 10 & 17. Please plan on joining your fellow worshippers for a light dinner prior to service. Soup will be served at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a sandwich or salad for yourself to enjoy with your soup. Worship is Evening Pray with Holy Communion and it begins at 7:00 p.m.

**Lutheran World Relief personal care kits.** We will continue to collect items for the Lutheran World Relief Personal Care kits throughout the year. A donation box is located in Pastor's former office. Items needed new dark colored bath towels, nail clippers, tooth brushes, bars of bath soap & sturdy combs. Items may be placed in the box located in Pastor's former office off the Narthex.

**Seminary Gift Emporium** We will also continue to collect money for gift cards for the Seminary Gift Emporium throughout the year. A jar is located by the flower chart in the Narthex. Even an occasional dollar would help purchase gift cards for the Seminary Students.

**Valpo Homeless Shelter Meal:** The shelter provides 3 meals for 50+ people in need everyday. Prince of Peace will deliver a meal January 17th. A sign-up sheet of items needed is located in the foyer. Thank you for giving a meal for those in need.

**Seminary Clothing Co-op:** We are accepting clothing for the Ft Wayne Seminary clothing coop. Please bring clothing bagged and in good condition with no stains or tears for men, women and children. Socks and undergarments must be new and in original package. We will get everything delivered clothing co-op Thank you.

**Eggs for sale:** There are eggs this week. PLEASE ONLY TAKE 1! They are donated to the ladies guild to sell for LWML. Sorry, they are not free. Please give at least \$2 for a dozen into the box on the kitchen counter. Pastor

**SUNDAY - Bible Study:** We are studying the 2nd Epistle of St. Peter after the Divine Service, in the Parish Hall. We begin at 10:45 Pastor

### **For the coming Week**

**Organist:** Jennifer Symer      **Elders:** Josh, Carl, Jeff, Paul

**Altar Guild Servers:** Cheryl, Deb, Cathy, Helen

**Morning Divine Service:** Wednesday 11:00 a.m.

**Weekday Bible Study:** Wednesday 11:45 a.m.

**Bethesda Services:** Wednesday 4:00 pm

**Veterans:** As requested with pastor.

### **PRAYERS FOR:**

**All who mourn the loss of loved ones especially those martyred**

**PRAYER FOR SHUT-INS:** Mike Foy, Darlene McDonald, Marilyn Skinner, Jim & Lois Brown, Ruth Koeppen

**THOSE IN THE MILITARY:** Craig McCall, Seneca Newkirk

### **PRAYER FOR HEALING:**

**Bonnie Broviak- Recovery**

**Jim Brown- Remission**

**Robert Sprout - Cancer**

**Greg Mohlke – Kidney Issues**

**Ellen Strutz – Cancer**

**Pat Maile – Dr Care**

**Dave McCall – Dr Care**

**Mike Arnold - Cancer**

**Bill Lomas – Lung issues**

**Jo Thompson – Cancer**

**Mary Cruz – ALS**  
**Betty Sut - Cancer**  
**Marilyn Skinner – Cancer**  
**Lillie Johnston – Alzheimers**  
**Lois Brown – Parkinsons**  
**Pete Sut – Cancer**  
**Jerry Weingarden – Cancer**  
**Bob Granzow – Dr Care**  
**Mamie Raschke – Broken Hip**

***Please give the Church Office updates Thank you Pastor***

**THOSE EXPECTING A CHILD**

**THOSE CELEBRATING BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS**

**Amy Horvath 12/14 Joshua Hardesty 12/16 Donna McCall 12/19**

**THOSE CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS**

**Zachary Graystone 12/14 Ashley Mowbray 12/14**  
**Ashleigh Hora 12/15 Deb Lomas 12/15 Denis Raschke 12/16 Jaylee Weiners**  
**12/17 Grace Elkins 12/18 Dave McCall 12/19**

**THOSE CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES**

**Bill & Cheryl Lewis 12/19**

*"The love of husband and wife is the force that welds society together." - St. John Chrysostom, Homily 20 on Eph. 5*

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**The Reverend William Foy, Pastor Cell Phone: (219) 613-3496**  
**reverendfoy@gmail.com**  
**Mid-week Advent Services**

**December 17th**

**Evening Prayer 7:00 pm**  
**Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services**

**Christmas Eve:**  
**8:30 pm candlelight with Holy Communion**  
**Christmas Day:**

Nativity of our Lord – Christmas Day **10:00 am**  
**LIVE NATIVITY – SUNDAY DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> @ 4:30 PM**



### **Chrismon Advent 3**    Mt 11.2-10

IHS are the first three letters of 'Jesus' in Greek. Matthew reports that John's question about whether Jesus is the Coming One or not arose when John heard about the deeds that Jesus was doing. It could be that it seemed to John that Jesus wasn't doing the things that he had prophesied about. He wasn't casting people into the furnace. He was healing people.

And that could be what drives the Lord's description of His Office from Isaiah. There is more to Him than fire and brimstone. So also He has more prophets than John. He is reminding him of the fullness of His Office and mission.

In prison, John may have been too focused on the fiery images of wrath that he was sent to preach and desperately needed the Gospel of Isaiah that the Lord preaches.

God's Word is fuller than we can understand. We must always be students of His Word. He has more than one prophet. He has more than one Evangelist. He has more than one Apostle. We need all of the Bible. Because all of it is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. If it is possible for John to get a bit off course, it is possible for us.

### **The Season of Advent**

*(Taken from the Sermon and the Propers by Fred Lindeman)*

The Great Festivals of the Church Year are provided with a period of days that precede and follow them as a season of preparation for and application of the central teaching. The Feast of the nativity is preceded by the Advent Season and followed by the twelve days culminating in the Festival of the Epiphany and the Epiphany Season. The Season of Advent precedes the Nativity of our Lord to prepare not for God's birth as a true man but for the commemoration of this historic event.

The dominant idea of Advent is the thought of the Lord's Coming. The Propers (*Introit, Collect, Readings and Gradual*) of the Liturgy recognize a threefold Coming: The Coming in the flesh, the Coming in Glory, and the Coming in Grace. In Advent the Liturgy prepares for a worth and proper commemoration of out Lord's First Advent, the historical event that lies in the past. However, the Church is not content to

remind her children of a past event that can be called to remembrance but cannot be experienced. In the First Coming she see a picture of the invisible Coming in Grace, which can be and is experienced in the present, and of the visible Coming in Glory, which will be experienced in the future.