

*AS WE GATHER*

**Do You Know What I Know?** People think that power—physical, financial, military, or political—is the key to who wins or loses. Jesus was born to show us a different display of God’s power. In part 5 of “How Do You Christmas,” we marvel again in the gift of God given at Christ, which proves again, it is **Who** you know that really key.

**+ KNOW THE LORD AND SING HIS PRAISE +**

*INVOCATION*

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

*LSB 515 REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS*                   sts. 1–2, 4

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
Go forth as He approaches With alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.
- 4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption That sets Your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.

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## *OPENING SENTENCES*

Psalm 100; 118:24

- P** This is the day that the LORD has made;
- C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.
  
- P** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
- C** Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!
  
- P** 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.
- C** Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!
  
- P** Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
- C** For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

## *CONFSSION AND ABSOLUTION*

- P** Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- C** Merciful Father, our Lord and King, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not always made Your kingdom of first importance in our lives. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the

**renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.**

**P** God is gracious and forgiving. He shows His kingly power in ways that are merciful. To each of us, our Lord says, “Fear not!” and promises pardon, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I announce to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

**C Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**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.**

*(During the singing of the hymn, three candles on the Advent wreath are lighted.)*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

**ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

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. **Refrain**

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

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**+ GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY +**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Jeremiah 31:31–34 NIV**

<sup>31</sup> “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah.

<sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.

<sup>33</sup> “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

<sup>34</sup> No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the Lord,’

because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord.

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## *EPISTLE*

Ephesians 3:14–21 NIV

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## *HOLY GOSPEL*

John 1:14–18 NIV

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

<sup>15</sup> (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me

because he was before me.””) <sup>16</sup> Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*LSB 345 HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING* sts.1,3-5

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! “Christ is near,” we hear it say.  
“Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!”
  - 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav’n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv’n;
  - 4 So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will 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 ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

*MESSAGE: Do You Know What I Know? How Do You Christmas, pt 5*

*CREED*

The Third Article

**P** The Third Sunday in Advent is a joy-filled Sunday in which we can thank God for His gracious plan for our salvation and for the Holy Spirit, who guides our lives of faith and joins us

together in the community of the Church. We speak the words of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed with joyful confidence:

**C** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**P** What does this mean?

**C** I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

## OFFERING

*LSB 354 ARISE, O CHRISTIAN PEOPLE*

sts. 1–2, 4

1 Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;  
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.  
To us by grace alone The truth and light were given;  
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.

- 2 Prepare the way before Him; Prepare for Him the best.  
Cast out what would offend Him, This great, this heav'nly guest.  
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,  
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.
- 4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,  
And help me to receive You This blessed Adventtide.  
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;  
I'll sing Your praises gladly And forth Your glory show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.

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## OUR PRAYERS

### + SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +

#### *INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION*

#### *LORD'S PRAYER*

**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*

- 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  $\ddagger$  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  $\ddagger$  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*

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

## *AGNUS DEI*

### **+ DISTRIBUTION HYMN +**

#### *LSB 636 SOUL, ADORN YOURSELF WITH GLADNESS*

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,  
    Come into the daylight's splendor, There with joy your praises render.  
    Bless the One whose grace unbounded This amazing banquet founded;  
    He, though heav'nly, high, and holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet Him, And with loving rev'rence greet Him.  
    For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.  
    Open wide the gates before Him, Saying, as you there adore Him:  
    Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, That I nevermore will leave You.

- 3 He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure;  
    But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.  
Though the wealth of earth were proffered, None could buy the gifts here  
offered:  
    Christ's true body, for you riven, And His blood, for you once given.
- 4 Now in faith I humbly ponder Over this surpassing wonder  
    That the bread of life is boundless Though the souls it feeds are  
countless:  
With the choicest wine of heaven Christ's own blood to us is given.  
    Oh, most glorious consolation, Pledge and seal of my salvation!
- 5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, Truest friend, and dearest treasure,  
    Peace beyond all understanding, Joy into all life expanding:  
Humbly now, I bow before You; Love incarnate, I adore You;  
    Worthily let me receive You And, so favored, never leave You.
- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,  
    Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring:  
At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker  
    Of this blessed food from heaven, For our good, Your glory, given.
- 7 Lord, by love and mercy driven, You once left Your throne in heaven  
    On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish,  
To forego all joy and gladness And to shed Your blood in sadness.  
    By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me gladly here obey You.  
    By Your love I am invited, Be Your love with love requited;  
By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.  
    Through the gift of grace You give me As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; (sts. 1, 4–5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2–3, 6–8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

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## BENEDICTION

- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

*LSB 343 PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY*     sts. 1, ref, 3–4

1 Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory Foretold in sacred story: **Refrain**

**ref Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God's Word!**

3 Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him!

**Refrain**

4 His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:

**Refrain**

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

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