

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 12, 2021

THE SERVICE OF PREPARATION

PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

WORDS OF WELCOME TO ONE AND ALL!

Pastor: Some Advent wreaths have a pink candle for this Third Sunday in Advent. The festive, joyful pink candle reflects today's Readings, which begin to anticipate the unbridled joy that Jesus' birth brings. We do many joyful things during Advent. We sing Christmas carols, bake cookies, decorate our homes inside and out, and travel far and wide to visit those we love. Yet all these joyful things point to an even greater joy the joy that comes by the Creator of the universe, the Lord almighty, who loves you, forgives you in Jesus, and cares about you beyond human measure! "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"

PREPARATION

(Please stand)

OPENING HYMN

"Joy to the World" *LSB 387*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come

Let earth receive its 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 sin 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

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Zephaniah 3:14a, 15b; 16b–17, 20*
(responses are spoken)

Pastor: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart.

People: **The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.**

Pastor: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

People: The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;

Pastor: He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;

People: He will exult over you with loud singing.

Pastor: 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.

People: We worship You, O Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Three Advent candle are lit.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

(Please be seated or kneel for the confession and absolution)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6-7*

Pastor: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God’s new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

Pastor: We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not borne fruit worthy of repentance. We have sinned against You and our neighbors.

People: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

**People: according to Your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!
Forgive us, Lord, for times when peace was lost,
And moments when we never thought to love,
For times when we oppress and offend
And fight for things that kill us in the end.
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins
And help us be in peace with all our kin**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: (spoken) Amen.

(Please stand)

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say,
Rejoice.

**People: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

Pastor: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all
that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

**People: who executes justice for the oppressed, who
gives food to the hungry.**

Pastor: The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens
the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who
are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

GLORIA PATRI *(sing)*

**All: 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 *(sing)*

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us**

(Please Stand)

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: *(spoken)* **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

You, Lord Jesus, caused the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the possessed to be free, the dead to be raised.

People: By Your death and resurrection, You promise to raise us to new life.

Pastor: You are the One who alone can answer all our wonderings.

People: You alone are the Way to abundant life.

Pastor: Fill us with the joy that comes from You alone

People: that our lives may radiate Your joy in this broken world;

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: (spoken) Amen.

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zephaniah 3:14-20 ESV*

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The 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. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

The 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. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. Behold, 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. At 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.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: (spoken) **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“What Child is This?”

EPISTLE *Philippians 4:4-7 ESV*

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

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: (spoken) **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

THE TRIPLE HALLELUJAH (sing)

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

People: (sing) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 7:18-35 ESV*

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling 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?" 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?'" In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. 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. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." 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? 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. 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.' 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.” (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, “‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: (sing) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED Nicene Creed

All: 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 shall 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 worshipped 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.

(Please be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Rejoice in the Lord Always”

Rejoice in the lord always: again I say Rejoice!

Rejoice in the lord always: again I say Rejoice!

Rejoice, Rejoice and again I say Rejoice!

Rejoice, Rejoice and again I say Rejoice!

Rejoice in the lord always: again I say Rejoice!

Rejoice in the lord always: again I say Rejoice!

Text: Philippians 4:4, alt.

+ SERMON+

“The Coming Scandal”

Text: Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)

Theme: Rejoice! Blessed are you who trust in God to be faithful.

Goal: That everyone present will rejoice that by God’s grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, they have been enabled to overcome the scandal of the Gospel.

Outline

1. Jesus answered John, “Blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”
2. But we are all the ones who are offended by Jesus.
3. Still he says to us, “Blessed are you—not because of anything you have (or haven’t) done, but because of what I’ve done for you.”

Rejoice! Blessed are you who trust in God to be faithful.

(Please be seated or kneel for the prayer)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ’s coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

A brief time of silence may be observed.

Pastor: O Wisdom from on high, lead us by Your Spirit to rejoice in all that You have done to demonstrate Your love for us. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to rejoice in the Lord always. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, . . . Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their

parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends.
We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Lord of might, help us to see in the miracles of Jesus a sign pointing forward to that Day when He will come again in great glory to restore all creation. Help us to be instruments by which our wandering world may come to see Jesus as the one who alone brings true joy into our lives. We pray,

People: Hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

(Please stand)

✠ SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: (spoken) **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

People: (spoken) **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

People: (spoken) **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, 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, in whose identity as the beloved Son of God we find our identity as His dear children—loved, forgiven, and filled with joy. 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 (Sing) *LSB 195*

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Thank You, Lord of all creation, for bringing joy into this heartbroken world. For the joy of creation, the beauty that points us to You as the Creator of all,

People: we thank You, Lord.

Pastor: For the joy of Your promise to Adam and Eve to send a Savior,

People: we thank You, Lord.

Pastor: For the joy of saving Noah and his family in the flood, and likewise saving us through the flood of Holy Baptism,

People: we thank You, Lord.

Pastor: For the joy of Your covenant with Abraham and Sarah to bless the world through their offspring,

People: we thank You, Lord.

Pastor: For the joy of Your saving the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and guiding them through the wilderness,

People: we thank You, Lord.

Pastor: For the joy of Your sending prophets to people who had again rebelled against You,

People: we thank You, Lord.

Pastor: For the joy of Jesus, Your Son, who proclaimed, taught, and demonstrated the coming Kingdom, and who suffered, died, rose, and ascended,

People: we thank You, Lord.

Pastor: For the joy we receive in the body and blood of Christ,

**People: we thank You. We praise You. We adore You.
Amen.**

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: 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 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 blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: (spoken) Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the

final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom
and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

**All: 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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI (*Sung*) LSB 198

**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.**

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” LSB 344

**On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh
Awake and hearken for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings**

**Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin
Make straight the way for God within
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there**

**We hail Thee as our Savior Lord
Our refuge and our great reward
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow’rs that wither and decay**

**Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev’ry place**

**All praise eternal Son to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit it evermore**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

(Please stand)

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to
life everlasting.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

(Please stand at the conclusion of the distribution for the blessing
followed by the Post-Communion Canticle)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (sung) TLH p. 29-30

**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 with-out end. Amen**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We rejoice, O Lord, and thank You that in Christ's
body and blood we now receive forgiveness of our
sins, life rooted in Christ, and salvation both now
and forever; through the same Jesus Christ, Your
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *Philippians 4:5-7; Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 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.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

HYMN

“Hark the Glad Sound” *LSB 349*

**Hark the glad sound
The Savior comes
The Savior promised long
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne
And ev’ry voice a song**

**He comes the pris’ners to release
In Satan’s bondage held
The gates of brass before Him burst
The iron fetters yield**

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

Our glad hosannas Prince of Peace
Thy welcome shall proclaim
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor

Marie Brown, Organist

Dave Hamilton, Elder & Reader

Jim Bumgarner & Frank Pignanelli, Ushers

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Bible Study

Will reconvene January 5th

We will undertake Timothy 1 & 2

Please remember to wear a mask while school is in session. We want to keep everyone one safe and healthy.

Christmas Bazar

Come Look what's for sale!

This is a free will donation

Items will be in the Narthex until December 19th.

You may continue to bring in items thru December 19th.

We will have Quits for sale. They will be \$20, \$30 & \$40 dependent on the size of the quilt.

Advent Service @ Historic Trinity in Detroit.

December 15th at 12pm

Lunch will be provided with donations

Interested? Please see Linda Panich by 12/10

Toys for Tots

Unwrapped, New toys. The preschool will be collecting toys until December 16th & a Box is in the Narthex

Attendance

Sunday November 28th 9:30 am 37

Prayer List

If sudden illness or the need for immediate prayers occurs, please feel free to contact our Prayer Chain leader, Joan Hafkesbrink, at 313.565.6871. Prayer requests will remain on the list for two weeks.

Anniversary

Birthdays

Milton Moton IV – December 13th

Shayla Ladach – December 14th

Susan Raitz – December 15th

Patricia Jean – December 16th

Elizabeth Hubbard – December 17th

For the Shut-Ins

Dorothy MacTavish, at home

George Morton, at home

Mack Mayfield, at home

Carmell Faulk, at home

For Those Who Are Sick or Healing

Our continued prayers for the entire community of Oxford, Michigan, everyone becomes affected by this tragedy. We pray especially for the families of the victims—for comfort and healing in losing their loved ones and for healing for those injured.

For the family of Gayle French, who was called to glory and laid to rest this past week;

Duane French, Gayle French's Nephew, hospitalized and still in serious condition;

Dorothy Nagy, friend of Pam, hospitalized

Jack Gurney, Paul Utcai's Nephew, hospitalized;

LeAnn Gibbs, Pat Bates' daughter, illness and working through an auto accident;

Kent James, nephew of Linda Panich, Hospitalized with and open wound infection on foot;

Family of Andy Lopez, Frank Pignanelli's Cousin, called to glory;

Linda and Ray Meseah, Pat Bates' sister and brother in law, tested positive for Covid;

Tania Hodges, friend of Glenn Cairns
Undergoing tests in hospital;

Gerry, a neighbor of the Pignanelli's hospitalized;

Mark Leger, nephew of Phyllis Witte, hospitalized;

Barbara Kuderik, friend of Janet Witte, surgery;

Victor Thompson & family, in the death of his father-in-law;

Heidi Bumgarner, in her recovery from surgery;

Elsie and Jim Brophy, general prayers for health.