

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Rejoicing in Holiness

December 13, 2020



AS WE GATHER

In our Advent preparations today, John the apostle and evangelist adds his testimony along with John the Baptist, holding before us the joy of Jesus as the light who gives to all who receive Him and believe in His name the right to become children of God. Because of our Lord's continual supply of grace by His Word and Sacraments, we are enabled with Him to "greatly rejoice in the LORD"; for by His Spirit of righteousness we lead lives of holiness of faith. This holiness continually rejoices in the Lord, prays, and give thanks in all circumstances. With John the apostle and John the Baptist, we rejoice, always prepared by faith to welcome and worship our Lord and Savior, who comes to us daily with healing and deliverance.

HYMN LSB 338 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

✠ PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.

People: **Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves. Make us truly repentant, that we may receive the holiness of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.**

Pastor: The true light has come. To all who receive Him, He makes to be the children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to 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.

People: **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

HYMN "We Light the Advent Candle"

We light the Advent candle
And sing with cheerful heart.
With joy, we spread the message—
A blessing to impart.
Our joy is never ending;
The Son to us is sending.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!

✂ WORD ✂

INTROIT *Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7*

Pastor: In the wilderness prepare the way | of the LORD;*

People: **make straight in the desert a highway | for our God.**

Pastor: Seek the LORD | and his strength;*

People: **seek his presence con- | tinually!**

Pastor: Remember the wondrous works that | he has done;*

People: **his miracles, and the judgments he | uttered,**

Pastor: O offspring of Abraham, his | servant;*

People: **children of Jacob, his | chosen ones!**

Pastor: He is the | LORD our God;*

People: **his judgments are in | all the earth.**

Pastor: He remembers his covenant for- | ever;*

People: **the word that he commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.**
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.

Pastor: In the wilderness prepare the way | of the LORD;*

People: **make straight in the desert a highway | for our God.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, true Light of the world, abide with us that we may rejoice in Your gracious presence, pray to You in every need, and give thanks for all Your blessing; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11* (The year of the Lord's favor)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 5:16–24* (Rejoice always)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Matthew 11:10b*

Pastor: Alleluia. "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,

People: who will prepare Your way before You." Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:6–8, 19–28* (The testimony of John the Baptist)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY LSB 331 "The Advent of Our King"

SERMON

CREED *Apostles' Creed*

People: 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 Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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.

OFFERTORY LSB 370 “What Child is This”

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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: Amen.

HYMN LSB 344 “On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

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