

THE ORDER FOR OUR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"Advent Pastorale" by Charles Chauvet

HYMN 349 - we sing, standing

ADVENT WREATH ~ 3rd SUNDAY

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ, on this Third Sunday in Advent, we are invited to rejoice in the Lord, for He is near. In anticipation of the joy of Christmas, we light the third candle on the Advent wreath, recalling that joy is one of the surest signs of God's presence among us.

Lord Jesus, our hearts are full of joy, for You are near. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You come with the Good News of salvation for Your holy people. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, the power of Your love brings us healing and forgiveness. **Lord, have mercy.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

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. **Amen.**

(please be seated)

FIRST LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 146 - we read in unison

SECOND LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

page 156 - **ALLELUIA VERSE** - all standing

GOSPEL *(bulletin back page)* - all standing

Before, all shout: Glory to you, O Lord!

After, all shout: Praise to you, O Christ!

HYMN 345 - we sing as indicated, seated

1 - all 2 - all
3 - pulpit side 4 - font side
5 - all

SERMON

NICENE CREED - hymnal, last page

all standing

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

all may kneel

Response: **Hear our prayer!**

OFFERTORY

During the gathering (10:30) the Parish Choir sings "Prepare" by Alan Pote

page 160 - **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT**

page 161 - **SANCTUS**

LORD'S PRAYER

page 162 - **WORDS OF OUR LORD**

SHARING OF PEACE

page 163 - **AGNUS DEI**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

During the Distribution we sing HYMNS 333 and 350

All are invited to commune who have been baptized and instructed in the Faith; who repent of their sins; who are committed to Christ and to the mission of his church; and who believe with us that we receive and share our Savior's Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine of the Sacrament - where He gives forgiveness and Christian unity.

NEWS AND NOTES

Altar Flowers this morning are from Jeff and Kyong Mann in celebration of their 42nd wedding anniversary.

Last Sunday Here

Attending: 98 Offering: \$6,178

This Week Here

Wed - 1:30 PM - Bible Study
 - 7:00 PM - Bell Choir
 - 7:45 PM - Parish Choir
Thur - 10:00 AM - Bulletin Pick Up
Fri - 3:00 PM - Tree Harvesting
Sat - 9:00 AM - Christmas Decorating

Cookie Sale! The Youth Group are selling cookies they made yesterday - stop by the fel-

All who commune, kindly sign your names in our Communicant Register, which is located on the narthex shelf along side our Guest Register.

page 165 - **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** - all standing

page 166 - **BENEDICTION**

HYMN 348 - we sing, standing

POSTLUDE - "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending" tune Picardy; setting by H. Gehrke

lowship hall to support them by purchasing some of their cookies.

Christmas Decorating - please join us this Sat, December 17, at 9:00 a.m. to lend a hand decorating our building. Many hands make light work and your assistance would be greatly appreciated. The Tree will be harvested and brought into church on December 18 at 3:00.

Worship Schedule for December

Dec 11 - 8/10:30 Communion Service
Dec 18 - 8 Worship Service
 10:30 S Sch Christmas Program
Dec 24 - 4/9:00 Christmas Eve Commun.
Dec 25 - 9:30 Communion Service
Jan 1 - 9:30 Lessons and Carols

A WORD ABOUT THE LESSONS

By the Preaching of Repentance, We Are Prepared for the Coming of the Lord - "John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent'" (Matt. 3:1-2). His preaching of repentance for the forgiveness of sins prepared people for the coming of Christ into the world. St. John's work was historically complete with the incarnate advent of Jesus, but his vital ministry continues in preaching Law and Gospel. The Son of God has come in the flesh, "a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots" (Is. 11:1), and continues to bear the fruits of righteousness. His good tree of the cross is "a signal for the peoples" (Is. 11:10), by which He calls the nations to repentance. "With the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips" (Is. 11:4), He slays the wicked and brings the dead to life, making sons of Abraham out of lifeless stones. So also the "root of Jesse" comes to us, "even he who arises to rule the Gentiles" (Rom. 15:12), that "we might have hope" and be filled "with all joy and peace in believing" (Rom. 15:4, 13).