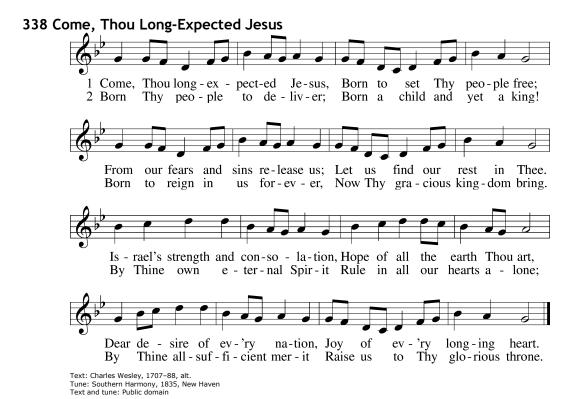
# DECEMBER 17, 2023 - THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

**Prelude** - "Hark, The Glad Sound" tune Chesterfield, setting by C. S. Lang (8:00).

Stand



The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

#### Invocation

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the 

  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

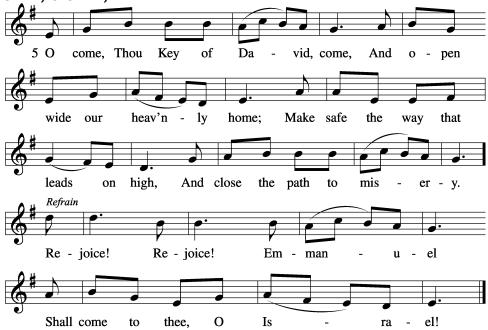
#### **Advent Wreath Lighting**

- P 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.
- P Lord Jesus, our hearts are full of joy, for You are near.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P Christ Jesus, You come with the Good News of salvation for Your holy people.
- **C** Christ, have mercy.
- **P** Lord Jesus, the power of Your love brings us healing and forgiveness.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life.
- C Amen.

The fifth stanza of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is sung while the third candle on the Advent Wreath is lit.



sts. ref, 5



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent. Tune: Public domain

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

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

Sit

# **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,

because the LORD has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor;

he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,

and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

that they may be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins;

they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,

the devastations of many generations. . . .

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice;

I hate robbery and wrong;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

Il will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Il For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GoD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

**Psalm** 

We speak the Psalm together in unison.

Psalm 126

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
<sup>2</sup>Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."
<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

<sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!
<sup>5</sup>Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!
<sup>6</sup>He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

- **A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse LSB 173



Holy Gospel *John 1:6–8, 19–28* 

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

# 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



Text: Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823-89 Text and tune: Public domain

#### Sermon

#### **Apostles' Creed**

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.

Sit

Anthem - "Come, Your Hearts And Voices Raising" tune Quem Pastores, setting by Kousemaker (8:00).

Kneel

# Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God, in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Each petition ends:

- **P** Lord, in Your mercy:
- C Hear our prayer!

The Prayers conclude:

- P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all those for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

LSB 179

- P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- 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.

#### Collect

Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

 $\mathbf{C}$ Amen.

Stand

Benediction LSB 183

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.

# 346 When All the World Was Cursed



Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt. Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701
Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000747

**Postlude** - "The Advent Of Our God" tune St. Thomas, setting by Brandon.

#### Acknowledgments

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