

THE ORDER FOR OUR WORSHIP

PRELUDE - “*Advent Pastorate*” 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 - *Pastor speaks the odd verses and the Congregation speaks the even verses.*

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, standing*

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

SERMON

APOSTLES CREED - *hymnal, last page all standing*

OFFERTORY

“*Come, O Long Expected Jesus*” tune Jefferson, setting by Powell.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

all may kneel
Response: **Hear our prayer!**

LORD’S PRAYER

COLLECT

page 166 - **BENEDICTION**

HYMN 348 - *we sing, standing*

POSTLUDE - “*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*” tune Macht Hoch Die Tur, setting by Johnson.

NEWS AND NOTES

The **Altar flowers** this morning are from Jeff & Kyong Mann in celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary!

Please Join Us after the early service for fellowship and coffee. Thank you to Karen Smith for serving this morning!

Last Sunday Here

Attending: 105 Offering: \$10,854.22

This Week Here

Wed - 1:30 PM - Bible Study
- 7:00 PM - Bell Choir
- 7:45 PM - Parish Choir

Worship Schedule

Dec 21 - 8 & 10:30 AM Holy Communion
Dec 24 - 7 & 9:00 Christmas Eve
Dec 25 - Merry Christmas!
Dec 28 - 8 & 10:30 AM Lessons and Carols

Attn Council Members! If you have not already done so, please hand in your year-end reports to the office by January 2 so that it may be included in the Annual Report.

Portals of Prayer (daily home devotional booklets for adults) - regular & large-print editions - on Narthex table. Help yourself to a copy - and take one for a friend, if you wish.

Christmas cookies requested to provide to our shut in parishioners! If you are able, please donate 1-2 dozen! Let Sally Schrumm know if you can contribute. She will be collecting them Sunday 12/21 to deliver them before Christmas. Thank you!

Christmas Decorating - please join us next Saturday, December 20, 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 on Fri, December 19 at 3:00 and brought into the sanctuary after.



A WORD ABOUT THE LESSONS

The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness When he preaches repentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God “*as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him*” (John 1:7). He baptizes with water in order to “*make straight the way of the Lord,*” who shall redeem His people from their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus “*who comes after*” John now stands among us and makes Himself known to us (John 1:26–27). He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit “*to bring good news to the poor*” and “*to bind up the brokenhearted*” (Is. 61:1). By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with “*the garments of salvation*” and adorns her with His own righteousness “*as a bride adorns herself with her jewels*” (Is. 61:10). Therefore, we “*rejoice always*” in the Lord, “*pray without ceasing*” and “*give thanks in all circumstances*” (1 Thess. 5:16–18). For “*the God of peace,*” who has called you by the Gospel, will surely “*sanctify you completely,*” so that “*your whole spirit and soul and body*” will “*be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1 Thess. 5:23–24).