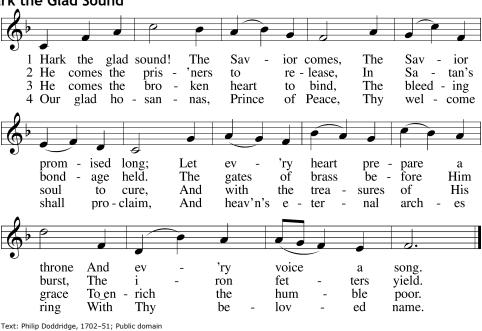
DECEMBER 14, 2025 - THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Prelude - "Advent Pastorale" by Charles Chauvet.

Stand

349 Hark the Glad Sound



Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820; Public domain

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

Invocation

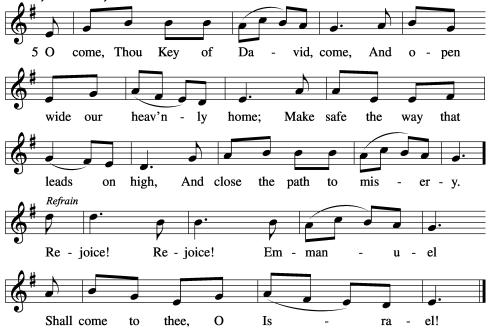
- **P** In the name of the Father and of the

 → 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.



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- The Lord be with you.
- C 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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God

will come with vengeance,

with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there. nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Psalm

Pastor speaks the odd verses and the Congregation speaks the even.

Psalm 146

¹Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

⁴When his breath departs he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

8the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

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 James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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

Stand





Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷As they went away, 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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



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

Sermon

Stand

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, O Long Expected Jesus" tune Jefferson, setting by Powell.

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.

Lord's Prayer LSB 162

- **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

A Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction LSB 166

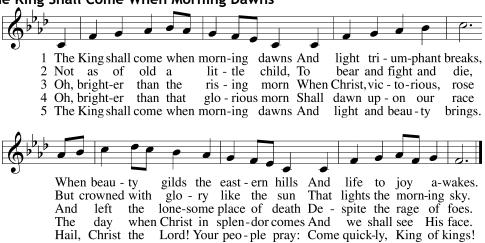
P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

C Amen.

Stand

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.; Public domain Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth; Public domain

Postlude - "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" tune Macht Hoch Die Tur, setting by Johnson.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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