

Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Mankato, Minnesota

The Third Sunday in Advent  
December 15, 2024

At Our Savior Lutheran Church we live to make Christ known.

Monthly Memory Verse:

The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5

Confession and Absolution

Opening Hymn: “Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With Thy beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51 Text: Public domain

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

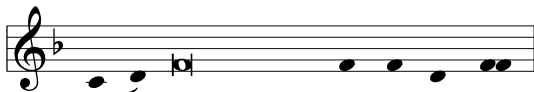
## Absolution

*LSB 151*

## Service of the Word

## Kyrie

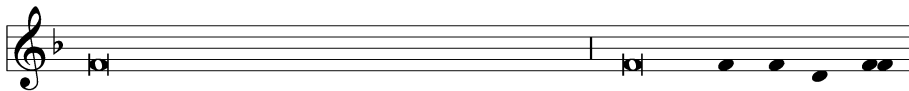
*LSB 152*



**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise

let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

**C** A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And al - so 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.



## Old Testament Reading

*Zephaniah 3:14–20*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;  
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;  
he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal  
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in,  
at the time when I gather you together;

for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes,” says the LORD.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

*Psalm 85*

- <sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable | to your land; \*  
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.
- <sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your | people; \*  
you covered | all their sin.
- <sup>3</sup>You withdrew | all your wrath; \*  
you turned from your hot | anger.
- <sup>4</sup>Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation, \*  
and put away your indignation | toward us!
- <sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us for- | ever? \*  
Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?
- <sup>6</sup>Will you not revive | us again, \*  
that your people may re- | joice in you?
- <sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD, \*  
and grant us your sal- | vation.
- <sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak, \*  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to | folly.
- <sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him, \*  
that glory may dwell | in our land.
- <sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet; \*  
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.
- <sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up | from the ground, \*  
and righteousness looks down | from the sky.
- <sup>12</sup>Yes, the LORD will give | what is good, \*  
and our land will yield its | increase.
- <sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go be- | fore him \*  
and make his foot- | steps a way.

## Gloria Patri

186

**C** 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

*Philippians 4:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Anthem: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Clarinet Trio

### Alleluia and Verse

*LSB 156*

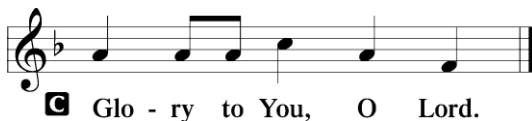


**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 7:18–28*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.



**C** Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

<sup>24</sup>When John’s messengers had gone, 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?

<sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are

dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

<sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**G** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Hymn of the Day: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

LSB 345

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!  
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.  
“Cast away the works of darkness,  
All you children of the day!”
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning,  
Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,  
Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
Comes with pardon down from heav’n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
One and all, to be forgiv’n;
- 4 So, when next He comes in glory  
And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with His mercy  
And with words of love draw near.
- △ 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion  
To the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit  
While eternal ages run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

**C** 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  $\dagger$  everlasting. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

#### Offertory

*LSB 159*

**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.







Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

*LSB 161*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

*LSB 162*

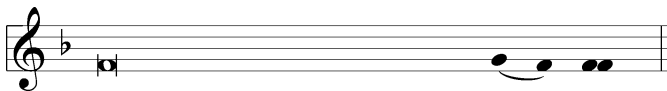
**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **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.**

### The Words of Our Lord

## Pax Domini

LSB 163



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 163



**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Distribution Hymns:

### “Lift Up Your Heads, You Everlasting Doors”

LSB 339

- 1 Lift up your heads, you everlasting doors,  
And weep no more!  
O Zion's daughter, sing,  
To greet your coming King;  
Now wave the victor's palm  
And sing the ancient psalm:  
“Lift up your heads, you everlasting gates!”  
Your King awaits!

- 2 Who is this King of great and glorious fame?  
 What is His name?  
 Lord God of Sabaoth,  
 Of whom the prophets wrote,  
 Whose chosen, humble steed  
 Declares Him king indeed!  
 Hosanna, Lord! Messiah, come and save  
 From sin and grave.
- 3 Who may ascend Mount Zion's holy hill  
 To do God's will?  
 The One whose unstained hands  
 Can meet the Law's demands,  
 Whose purity within  
 Reveals One free from sin.  
 Come, praise this King who claims the cross as throne—  
 Praise Him alone!
- 4 "Worthy is Christ!" The Lamb who once was slain  
 Now lives to reign.  
 He rules our earthly ways  
 As Lord of Ancient Days—  
 O join the endless song  
 Sung by the ransomed throng:  
 "Worthy is Christ!" The Lamb be praised again!  
 Amen! Amen!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

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## **"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"**

**LSB 350**

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,  
 Only hope for sinful mortals!  
 Come, O Savior of the world!  
 Open are to Thee all portals.  
 Come, Thy beauty let us see;  
 Anxiously we wait for Thee.
- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,  
 Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
 Dwell in me and ne'er depart,  
 Though I am but poor and lowly.  
 Ah, what riches will be mine  
 When Thou art my guest divine!

3 My hosannas and my palms  
    Graciously receive, I pray Thee;  
Evermore, as best I can,  
    Savior, I will homage pay Thee,  
And in faith I will embrace,  
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!  
    Jesus, hear our supplication!  
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,  
    Bring us blessing and salvation,  
That forever we may sing:  
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text: Public domain

## “In Holy Conversation”

LSB 772

1 In holy conversation  
    We speak to God in prayer,  
And at His invitation  
    Our deepest thoughts we share.  
We come, His will obeying,  
    As children bringing needs;  
And to support our praying,  
    His Spirit intercedes.

2 These holy conversations  
    Begin in childlike ways;  
We bring our supplications  
    And words of thanks and praise.  
With care our Father listens  
    To ev'ry thought expressed,  
Then answers our petitions  
    In ways He knows are best.

3 As holy conversation,  
    In silence or by word,  
In ev'ry situation  
    Through Jesus, we are heard.  
So let us pray securely,  
    Expressing hopes and fears  
With confidence that surely  
    Our Father ever hears.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946 Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003002

## Thank the Lord

LSB 164



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A - men.

## Closing Hymn: “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

LSB 347

- 1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people,  
    Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;  
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
    Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
    Tell her that her sins I cover  
    And her warfare now is over.”
  
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,  
    Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger  
    He no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many\_a day,  
Now her griefs have passed away;  
    God will change her pining sadness  
    Into ever-springing gladness.
  
- 3 Hark, the herald’s voice is crying  
    In the desert far and near,  
Calling sinners to repentance,  
    Since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
    Let the valleys rise to meet Him  
    And the hills bow down to greet Him.
  
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;  
    Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
    As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o’er earth is shed abroad,  
    And all flesh shall see the token  
    That His Word is never broken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text: Public domain

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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