



**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
 Red Bud, Illinois  
 December 14-15, 2019



**PRELUDE:** "Hark! A Thrilling Voice" *arr. by James Brauer*  
**THE RINGING OF THE BELL** calls us to holy worship.

**OPENING HYMN:** 345 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding" (*stand for last stanza; A-men.*)

*Divine Service Three, page 184ff.*

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:** pages 184-185

P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit. C: **Amen.**  
 P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.  
 P Our help is in the name of the Lord, C: **who made heaven and earth.**  
 P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
 C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**  
*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*  
 P O almighty God, merciful Father,  
 C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**  
 P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit. C: **Amen.**

*We Share God's Peace With and Greet One Another*

**INTROIT: Psalm 71:14-18; Philippians 4:4**



Rejoice in the Lord | always; again I will say, | Rejoice.  
 I will hope con- | tinually and will praise You yet | more and more.  
 I will tell of Your deeds of salvation | all the day, for their number is past my | knowledge.  
 With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;  
 I will remind them of Your righteousness, | Yours alone.  
 O God, from my youth You have | taught me, and I still proclaim Your | wondrous deeds.  
 Even to old age, O God, do not for- | sake me, until I proclaim Your power to all | those to come.

**Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;**  
 as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. **A-men.**  
**Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-on us, Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.**

**ADVENT STANZA:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (*sung*)

**O come, O come, Em-man-u-el, And ran-som cap-tive Is-ra-el,**  
**That mourns in lone-ly ex-ile here Un-til the Son of God ap-pear.**  
**Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el Shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el!**

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY:**

P: The Lord be with you. C: (*sung*) **And with thy spirit.**  
 P: Let us pray. C: **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*)

(10:30 a.m.) **ANTHEM:** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*School Grades 3-8*

**THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:**

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
<sup>2</sup>it 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.  
<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say 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."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then 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; <sup>7</sup>the 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.  
<sup>8</sup>And 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.  
<sup>9</sup>No 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. <sup>10</sup>And 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL:**

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**  
 Behold, your king is coming to you; **righteous and having salvation.**  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. **From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

**THE EPISTLE READING:**

**James 5:7-11**

Be 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. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an

example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

<sup>11</sup>Behold, 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*(please stand if able)* **ALLELUIA:** page 190 *(sung)* “**Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.**”

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL:**

**Matthew 11:2-15**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter. C: *(sung)* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples<sup>3</sup> and said to Him, "Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"<sup>4</sup> And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the 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. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me."

<sup>7</sup>As 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? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</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>11</sup>Truly, 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. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

### **OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: Creed:**

*(8 a.m.)* **The Nicene Creed: page 191** *(5 p.m. & 10:30 a.m.)* **The Apostles' Creed: page 192**

*(please be seated)* **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SONG:** *(5 p.m. & 10:30 a.m.)*

**Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope, He brings hope to ev'ry heart, He comes!**

**He comes! Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace, He brings peace to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes! Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy, Ev'ry nation will find salvation in Beth-l'em's baby boy. Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love,**

**He brings love to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

**He brings love to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!**

Text: Copyright © 1976 by Hinshaw Music, Inc. Used by permission; CCLI#3196726

### **HYMN OF THE DAY: 346 "When All the World Was Cursed"**

**SERMON:** "Who John is for Jesus and Who Jesus is for Us" Matthew 11:2-15

P: Most gracious Father: may the words of my mouth,

**C: and the meditations of our hearts,**

**ALL: be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen.** (Ps. 19:14)

*(please stand if able)* **OFFERTORY:** pages 192-193

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

*(please be seated)* **OFFERING:** "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

*arranged by Wayne Wold*

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *(please stand if you are able)*

*(Each petition ends "Lord, in Your mercy" and we respond, "hear our prayer.")*

**HEALING AND COMFORT:** Leonard Vogt, Kenneth Koester, Helen Winkelman, C. John Prigge, Ed Luttman, Curtis Hartmann, Doris Hartmann, Larry Ebers, Jane Donjon, Julie Ratz, Tim Deien, Stuart Langrehr, Roger Kozora, Peggy Sitzes, Lori Rees; *Family and Friends of St. John's Members:* Lori Voges, Brenda Manning, Derrick DeWilde, Grace Urspruch, Elda Guebert, Pat Wilson, Nancy O'Dell, Guy Lautenschlaeger, Dorothy Gross. *Help us keep this list current!*

**MILITARY:** *(Please call with names.)* **Army-** Jonathan Koen, Casey Vallett, Tanner Valleroy, Nathan Koen, Tim Healy, Jacob Adams, Donald Roberts, Matthew Kraus, Paul Craft, Jr., Dustin Krack, Austin Scheibe, Trevor Buckner, Jessica DeMarco, Jeremiah Brandt, Benjamin Boeder, Christopher Dupertius, Garrett Carnahan; **Navy-** Brad Koester, Carl Muehler; **Air Force-** Gage Baldwin, Brian Hubbard, Jason Nehrt, Curt Hatten, Terry Koester, David Livingston, Matt Sabo, Ryan Kozarich; **Marines-** Alex Renner, Cody Koch, Tailor Neuhaus, Josh Butterworth, Brent Knop, Keenan Turnure  
+those who mourn: the family of Tanner Hackstadt, nephew of Janet Papenberg

*The 5 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. services continue with the Lord's Prayer and a Closing Prayer.*

*(8 a.m.)* **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT:** page 194ff.

**PREFACE:** page 194 **SANCTUS:** page 195 **LORD'S PRAYER:** page 196

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD AND PAX DOMINI:** page 197

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. C: *(sung)* **A-men.**

**THE AGNUS DEI:** page 198

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:** *(please be seated)*

(Lord Jesus, I pray You to make me, unworthy as I am, worthy through Your grace; so that Your body and Your blood may be for me a strengthening of my faith, a proof of my forgiveness, a closer union with You and Your people, an increase of holiness, the basis of a glad resurrection, and a pledge of everlasting life. Amen.)

**352 "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"**

**632 "O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee"**

**631 "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"**

**NUNC DIMITTIS:** "Song of Simeon" pages 199-200

**THANKSGIVING, SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS:** pages 200-202

**BENEDIC TION:** page 202

**CLOSING HYMN: 350 "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"**

**THE POSTLUDE:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*arranged by Rudolph Moser*

*Acknowledgments:* Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.