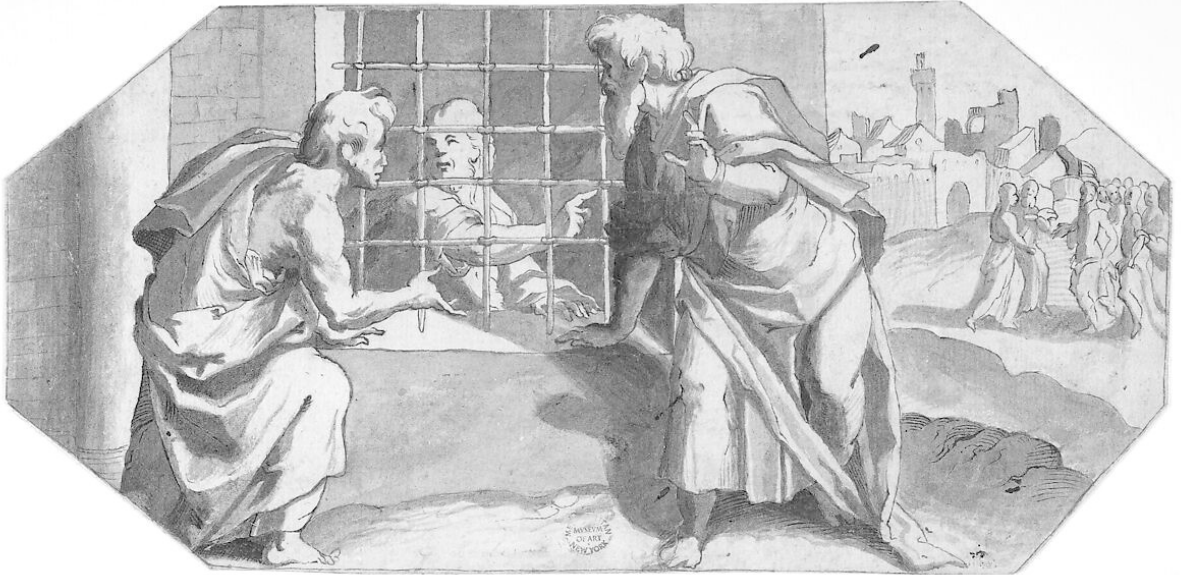


THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15th, 2024



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
St. Louis, MO
Pastor Seth Georgson
314-914-6457

THE COMMON SERVICE

ADVENT GATHERING RITE

The congregation sings the first refrain and continues repeating it until after the final verse.

Refrain

Come, come Emmanuel.

Come, Emmanuel.

Verses (solo)

1. For the way is prepared, so... *Matthew 11:10*
2. Oh give comfort, my people, and... *Isaiah 40:1-8*
3. He brings light to the darkness, so... *1 Corinthians 4:1-5*
4. Bring good news to the poor and... *Matthew 11:2-10*

Stand.

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded baptism when he said: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” All of us are born into this world with a deep need for baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But Jesus took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. At our baptism he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. Our sinful nature need not control us any longer. We recall what baptism means for our daily lives as we speak these words:

C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

M: As baptized children of God we confess our sins:

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The congregation enters with the first refrain.

Refrain

Come, come Em - man - u - el.
Come, Em - man - u - el.

Verses (solo)

- 1 Lord, have mercy upon us and...
- 2 Christ, have mercy upon us and...
- 3 Lord, have mercy upon us and...

Be seated.

The Rite of Baptism continues at the font. (CW p. 6)

After the rite has concluded with prayer, the congregation sings

Hymn ----- All Who Believe and Are Baptized

CW 299

- 1. All who believe and are baptized
Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ,
They are a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand
Among the glorious, heav'nly band
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.

2. **With one accord, O God, we pray:
Grant us your Holy Spirit.
Help us in our infirmity
Through Jesus' blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day
That by this sacrament we may
Eternal life inherit.**

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- Isaiah 40:1-8

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out
to her.
Her warfare really is over.
Her guilt is fully paid for.
Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice is calling out:
In the wilderness prepare the way for the
LORD.
In the wasteland make a level highway for
our God.
Every valley will be raised up,
and every mountain and hill will be made
low.

The rugged ground will become level,
and the rough places will become a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all flesh together will see it.
Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

A voice was saying, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry out?"

All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the
 countryside.
Grass withers, flowers fade,
when the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Yes, the people are grass.
Grass withers, flowers fade,
but the Word of our God endures forever.

Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 111

CW p.106

Refrain

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

Great are the works of the LORD;*
they are pondered by all who delight in them.

Glorious and majestic are his deeds,*
and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wonders to be remembered;*
the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

Refrain

The works of his hands are faithful and just;*
all his precepts are trustworthy.

He provided redemption for his people;*
he ordained his covenant forever.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;*
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

**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.**

Refrain

Second Lesson ----- 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

This is the way a person should think of us: as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. In this connection, moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But it is a trivial matter to me if I am evaluated by you or by a day in a human court. Why, I do not even evaluate myself. I do not in fact know of anything

against myself, but I am not justified by this; rather, the one who evaluates me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing ahead of time, until the Lord comes. He will bring to light whatever is hidden in darkness and also reveal the intentions of hearts. Then there will be praise for each person from God.

Verse of the Day

Matthew 11:10

M: Alleluia. I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Stand.

Gospel ----- Matthew 11:2-10

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is

worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- Arise, O Christian People

CW 14

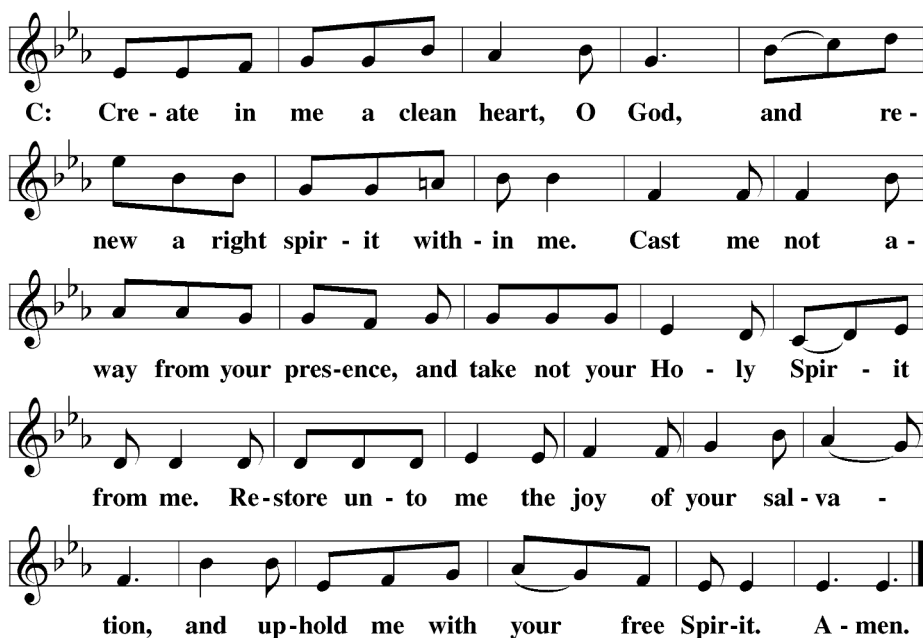
1. Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone The truth and light was given;
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.
2. Prepare the way before him; Prepare for him the best.
Cast out what would offend him, This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.
3. The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;
Beneath his feet in terror The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right, That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation—It is the Lord's delight.
4. Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing your praises gladly And forth your glory show.

Sermon ----- Matthew 11:2-10

Look for Jesus to Come with Healing

Stand.

After the sermon, the congregation sings:



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be seated.

Offering

Stand.

Prayer of the Church

*The minister calls for the petitions and the congregation prays with “**Lord, have mercy.**”*

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For joy at all times and reasonableness of word and deed, that all may recognize our Christian confidence in Christ’s advent, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the Church, that God would give us faithful stewards of His mysteries and servants of Christ who are trustworthy to proclaim Him alone as Lord

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of the Gospel here and around the world.

and Judge; and that the Lord would tend His flock by His Word and Spirit, that Christ's lambs may be gathered into God's arms and gently led to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Christ's gracious visitation; and that God would preserve them from dangers to body and soul, guide them by His Word in wise paths, and keep them firm in the faith until life's end, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For our elected officials, that God, the maker and preserver of all creation, would bless our president, our president-elect, our governor and all in authority, that they would honor Him and govern those entrusted to their care with wisdom, courage and compassion, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the sick and grieving, [*especially* _____,] that as the day draws near when blind eyes see, deaf ears hear, lame legs leap and mute tongues sing for joy, God would grant them healing according to His gracious will, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For faith to believe Christ's blessed testament, seek His Holy Supper for the forgiveness of our sins, and confess His truth with honest hearts in the communion of this altar, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, You gave Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to become man that He might enter this world and destroy the works of the devil. Deliver us from sin and death, and give us everlasting life. We implore You to rule and govern our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we would seek no refuge but His Word, that we would avoid the sin to which our sinful flesh is inclined, and that we would remain among the faithful followers of Christ, in whom we obtain eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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 SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n 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, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

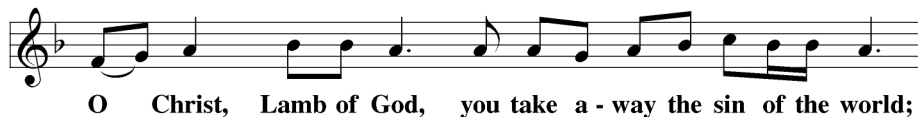
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

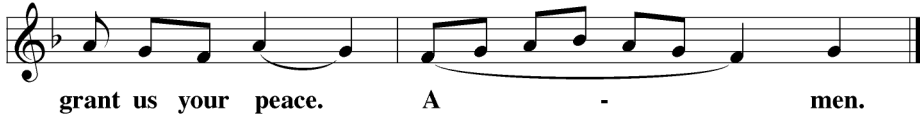
The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei





Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:

Hymn ----- Comfort, Comfort All My People
 CW 11

1. "Comfort, comfort all my people; Speak of peace," so says our God.
 "Comfort those who sit in darkness, Groaning from their sorrows' load.
 Speak to all Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
 Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over."
2. All their sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;
 All that well deserve his anger He no more will see or heed.
 They have suffered many a day; Now their griefs have passed away.
 God will change their aching sadness Into ever-springing gladness.
3. John the Baptist's voice is crying In the desert far and near,
 Calling people to repentance For the kingdom now is here.
 Oh, 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. Straighten out the crooked highway; Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, Ready for his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That his word is never broken.

Hymn ----- When All the World Was Cursed

CW 20

1. When all the world was cursed By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal The greater one he named,
And him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.
2. Before Saint John was born, He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing him as Lord Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream, A new Elijah bold,
He testified of him Whom prophets had foretold.
3. Behold the Lamb of God, Who bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.
4. Oh, grant, dear Lord of love, That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with him In his eternal day.

After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

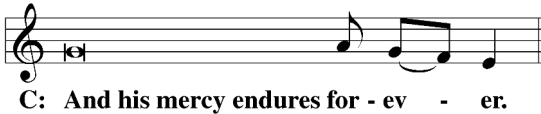
Song of Simeon

Nunc Dimittis



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

Hymn ----- Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

CW 6

1. Come, O long-expected Jesus,
Born to set your people free;
From our sins and fears release us
By your death on Calvary.
Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope to all the earth impart,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
2. Born your people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now your gracious kingdom bring.
By your own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all-sufficient merit
Raise us to your glorious throne.

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