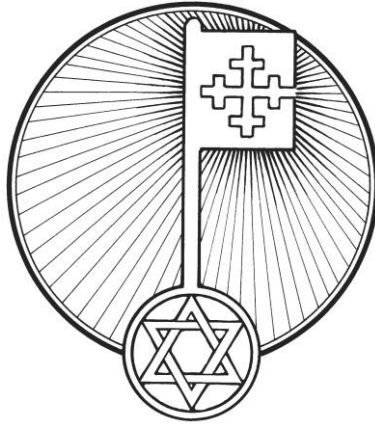


Christ Lutheran Church
Boyne City, MI



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. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." (Luke 7:22-23)

Third Sunday in Advent
December 15, 2024

Welcome

Welcome to all – members, guests, and visitors – in the name of Jesus! Our Lord comes to us today in Word and Sacrament, bestowing upon us the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. It is truly a blessing to gather with other Christians and celebrate all the Gospel promises of our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. During the Offering, all worshipers are asked to please fill out the *Record of Fellowship* which is found in each of the pews.

Concerning the Lord's Supper

The Sacrament of the Altar is given in our churches to those baptized Christians who have been examined and absolved, and who publicly confess the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as contained in the Small Catechism. Communicant members in good standing with a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or of one of our sister churches are welcome to receive the Sacrament. Others are encouraged to speak with the pastor before or after service as we earnestly desire your future reception of this sacred meal.

Guests or visitors who are not receiving communion today are still invited to come forward for a blessing. Simply fold your arms across your chest to indicate this once you are at the rail. It is also fine to simply remain in the pew when your row is dismissed. Those who may need special accommodation in order to receive the elements of the meal, or who have mobility concerns are invited to speak with the pastor. Finally, although it is our custom to kneel together at the rail if this causes pain or discomfort you are encouraged to remain standing.

Children

Children are welcome in the sanctuary throughout the service. There is a nursery located across from the kitchen. Child activity bags can be found in the Cry Room, which is located at the back of the sanctuary.

Pastor: Chuck Hoffman

Church Office: (231) 582-9301

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Pastor's Phone: (231) 373-2449

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Divine Service of Word and Sacrament
(Setting Four– LSB, page 203ff)

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Philippians 4:4–7

Luke 7:18–28

The Coming of Jesus Enables Us to Rejoice

The Third Sunday in Advent has traditionally been called by the Latin word *Gaudete*, meaning “Rejoice!” For as you are called to repentance, so also are you urged to rejoice in the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. By His own cross, He has accomplished salvation for you; “*he has cleared away your enemies,*” “*taken away the judgments against you*” and come to reign in your midst. Indeed, He rejoices over you with gladness and song (Zeph. 3:15–17)! Therefore, even from prison St. Paul encourages us to “*rejoice in the Lord always,*” knowing that the peace of God will guard and keep us in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:4, 7). We find an example and encouragement in the case of John the Baptist. As he languishes in prison, he calls upon Jesus and is strengthened by the Word of the Gospel that he receives. The same good news is preached to you, by which all things are made new and even “*the dead are raised up*” (Luke 7:22). Do not be offended by the cross, therefore, but let your life be one of prayer and thanksgiving (Luke 7:23; Phil. 4:6).

333 Once He Came in Blessing

LSB 333



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
 3 Soon will come that hour _____ When with might - y
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006
 Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534
 Text (sts. 2–3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002441
 Text (sts. 1, 4) and tune: Public domain

Stand

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

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day: Advent 3

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also 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.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Choir: O Come, O Come Immanuel by Natalie Sleeth

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

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

¹⁵The 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.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The 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.

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

¹⁹Behold, 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.

²⁰At 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.**

Gradual

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

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And 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.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

- C** Alleluia. Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:18-28

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.
- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling 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?" ²⁰And 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?'" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And 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. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When 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? ²⁵What 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.

²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

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

²⁸I 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.

Apostles’ Creed

G 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

Choir: *There Is a Child* by Nancy Price and Don Besig

Sermon

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

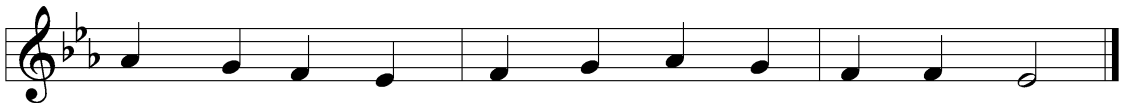
LSB 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

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

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Sit

Offering Please sign the attendance book found in your pew. In addition to the plate, offerings may be placed in the offering box at any time.

Stand

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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 Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 210



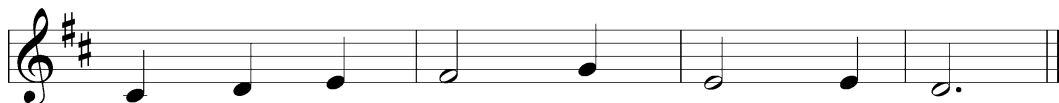
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

628 Your Table I Approach

LSB 628



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
 2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
 3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
 4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
 A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
 Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
 God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
 That earth and hell combined
 May not about this sacrament
 Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
 To thank You day and night
 For Your true body and true blood,
 O God, my peace and light.

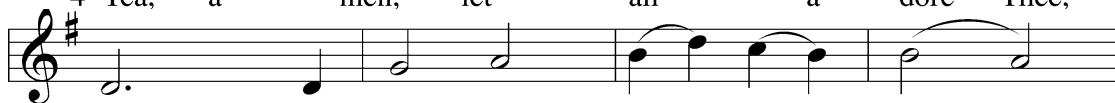
Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois
 Text and tune: Public domain

336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

LSB 336



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



Swell the tri - umph of His train:
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Stand

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.**

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

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 **Amen.**

Choir: *A Tiny Child will Come* by Nancy Price and Don Besig

Announcements

*The flowers on the altar today are from Jackie McNutt
in memory of Rooney Johnson.*

Our last **Advent Service and meal** will be on Wednesday, December 18. The meal will be hosted by LWML beginning at 5:45. There will be a Silent Auction! The Advent Service will begin at 6:30 PM.

Thursday morning Bible Class will meet at 10:00 AM.

If you need help, or know of someone who does, please call Nan Polleys at (231) 340-5148.

	Serving at 8:00am	Serving at 10:30am
Organist	Becky Palmiter	
Elders	Greg Danforth	Jake Bernthal
Ushers	Jay Higgins Larry Handwerk	Bob Smith Glenn Hessler
Altar Guild	Grace Battista and Sandy Hill	

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Christ Lutheran Church

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Worship: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study: 9:15 AM