

***Christ Lutheran Church***  
***Boyne City, MI***



**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.**

**(Isaiah 35:8)**

***Third Sunday in Advent***  
***December 14, 2025***

## 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.

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

### **THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

Isaiah 35:1–10

James 5:7–11

Matthew 11:2–15

### ***The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross***

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see “*the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful*” (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, “*be patient*” and “*establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand*” (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as “*the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up,*” so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that “*sorrow and sighing shall flee away*” (Is. 35:10).

### ***Morning Prayer on Sunday***

*Gracious and merciful God, I come before Your holy face today with praise and thanksgiving... You have preserved my going out and my coming. You have kept me in all my ways and have shown me so much kindness in body and soul. For all of this I praise and magnify You with my whole heart! I will forget what is past, lay down the burden of all my labors and callings, turn my mind to heaven alone, to my God, that I may rejoice in You... Grant that the Word I hear at church may change and sanctify me. As I grow in years, grant that I may also grow inwardly in faith and piety... through Jesus Christ, my only Redeemer and Savior. Amen* (Starck’s Prayer Book: Revised Concordia Ed., pages 2-3)

Prelude *The Gallery Carol* Edward Broughton; Tune: *Rejoice and be Merry*,  
Traditional English Melody

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

*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.



## Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>1</sup>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.

**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.**

### Choir: What Little, Tiny Child? Arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram

### Epistle: James 5:7-11

<sup>7</sup>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.

**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: Matthew 11:2-15

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>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 Praise to You, O Christ.**

## 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*

**Choir: Innkeeper by Roger Emerson**

**Sermon**

*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.**

**Offertory** *Aria* Caleb Simper: Arr. By Michael Ryan

*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  $\text{✠}$  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  $\text{✠}$  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



- C** 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

### 349 Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51  
 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820  
 Text and tune: Public domain

# 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.  
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven  
Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

### **Post-Communion Collect**

**A** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no 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.**

### **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: Bethlehem Promise, Bethlehem Joy by Joseph M. Martin**

**Postlude** *He Shall Reign Forevermore* Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Matt Maher;  
Arr. By Larry Shackley

### **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## Announcements

	Serving at 8:00am	Serving at 10:30am
<b>Organist</b>	Patty Walton	
<b>Elders</b>	Jay Higgins	Dave Newsom
<b>Ushers</b>	Nancy Cummings Jill Loewenstein	Jake Bernthal Lew Behling
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Tina Gilbert	

The **Silent Auction** in the fellowship hall will end after late service today. Make a bid then check to see if your bid has won! If you won't be here, we'll keep your prize in the office and notify you.

The last **Advent Soup Supper** will be on Wednesday at 5:45 PM, with the **Advent Devotion** following at 6:30 PM.

**Thursday Morning Bible Class** will meet at 10:00 AM. After Bible Class, we will go caroling at The Brook. Everyone is invited to join!