



Third Sunday of Advent
Concordia Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 17, 2023



Third Sunday of Advent Sunday, December 17



Prelude

Welcome to Concordia!

Pastor Robert Sorensen

Opening Hymn *"Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"* **Red Hymnal # 66**

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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.**

All: **O almighty God, merciful Father, 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.

Introit

Psalm 85:7-9 & 12-13

P: Show us your unfailing love, O Lord,
C: and grant us your salvation.

P: I will listen to what God the Lord will say;
C: **he promises peace to his people, his saints—but let them not return to folly.**

P: Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
C: **that his glory may dwell in our land.**

P: The Lord will indeed give what is good,
C: **and our land will yield its harvest.**

P: Righteousness goes before him
C: **and he prepares the way for his steps.**

P: Show us your unfailing love, O Lord,
C: **and grant us your salvation.**

The Gloria Patri

Red Hymnal pg 16

Kyrie

Red Hymnal pg 17

The Salutation and Collect

P: The Lord be with you

C: **And with your spirit.**

P: Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, you once proclaimed salvation; now grant that we may know this salvation and serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The First Reading is taken from the sixty-first chapter of Isaiah:

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion— to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her

jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:1-4 & 8-11

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual

Revelation 7:14; Psalm 84:5

R: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

C: **Shout, daughter of Jerusalem!**

R: See, your King comes to you,

C: **righteous and having salvation.**

R: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

The Epistle Reading is from the fifth chapter of First Thessalonians:

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

1Thessalonians 5:16-24

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter:

C: **Glory to you, O Lord!**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the

Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and Apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sermon Hymn *"When All the World Was Cursed"* Red Hymnal # 272

Sermon

The Sharing of the Peace

Offering

The Offertory Red Hymnal pg 22-23

Prayers of the Church

The Order of Holy Communion Red Hymnal pg 24-28

**Distribution Hymn *"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"*
Red Hymnal # 55**

Nunc Dimittis Red Hymnal pg 29

Thanksgiving

Red Hymnal pg 30

P: O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good

C: **And His mercy endures forever.**

Post-Communion Collect

C: Amen

Salutation

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with your spirit.**

The Benedicamus

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

Red Hymnal pg 31

Closing Hymn *"Lord Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing"*

Red Hymnal # 50