

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 13, 2020

Worship Focus

Company's Coming: Deck the Halls



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Order of Service for THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Common Service with Communion

Christian Worship, p. 15

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OPENING HYMN

19 – O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you
3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, Who sit in
4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, Let not your
5 He comes to judge the na - tions, A ter - ror



you a - right? Your peo - ple long to greet you,
down to me. Your thirst for my sal - va - tion
deep - est gloom, Who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed
souls dis - tress; Your guilt the Lord will par - don
to his foes, A light of con - so - la - tions,



My Hope, my heart's De - light. O Je - sus, let your
Pro - cured my lib - er - ty. Oh, love be - yond all
And trem - ble at your doom. De - spair not; he is
And cov - er by his grace. He comes, for you pro -
And bless - ed hope to those Who love the Lord's ap -



Word be A lamp to light my way, To show me
tell - ing That led you to em - brace In love, all
near you, He's stand - ing at the door Who best can
cur - ing The peace of sin for - giv'n, His chil - dren
pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come, Send forth your



how to please you, To guide me ev - 'ry day.
 love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race!
 help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.
 thus se - cur - ing A her - i - tage in heav'n.
 beams most cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. composite.
 Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN (76 76 D) Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.

INVOCATION

Minister In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



Congregation A - men.

M Beloved in the Lord: Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

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.**

LORD HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

ABSOLUTION

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.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.



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.



✠ The Word ✠

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10, 11

The Servant of the Lord – Jesus – delights in the mission of mercy that his Father has given him to accomplish.

ISAIAH 61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness

instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

¹⁰ I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

The encouragements of Paul are especially timely in the Advent season...
live joyfully, thankfully, prayerfully and spiritually.

¹ THESSALONIANS 5:16 Be joyful always; ¹⁷ pray continually; ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not put out the Spirit's fire; ²⁰ do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹ Test everything. Hold on to the good. ²² Avoid every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

If people accepted John's ministry with joy, how much more would they have joy
in the ministry of Jesus, the light of the world.

JOHN 1:6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."

²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

²²Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”

²⁴Now some Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

²⁶“I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

15 – Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing; “Christ is
2 Lo, the Lamb, so long - ex - pect - ed, Comes with
3 That, when next he comes with glo - ry And the
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He may shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness; You are chil - dren of the day.”
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n,
with his mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
last - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 6th century, abr.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Tune: MERTON (87 87) William H. Monk, 1823–89.

✠ Sermon ✠

Isaiah 61:1-3, 10, 11

Company’s Coming... so Deck the Halls!

Sermon notes:

✠ Praise and Prayers ✠

RESPONSE TO THE WORD



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.

OFFERING ANNOUCEMENT and MUSICAL OFFERTORY

Offerings can be placed in the plate near the entrance to the sanctuary or one can give online or with our GivePlus app. Please "check in" online. The "Connection Card" tab is on the bottom of any page of our website: calvarydallas.org.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation! Keep Your saints from every folly that would turn them from Your words of peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You sent John to proclaim the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Richly and daily forgive our sins and the sins of all believers. Bless those in leadership within our church

body and our congregation, together with all those called to serve your Church as pastors, teachers, or staff ministers. Gather and preserve Your Holy Christian Church by Your voice, and send us faithful preachers who will confess Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear Father, be the source of strength and comfort in every home. Bless the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Your Son's gracious visitation. Sanctify them completely, that their whole spirit, soul and body may be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give wisdom and success to our nation and its leaders. Behold in mercy all who are in authority over us and those newly elected. Preserve our land and its citizens in peace and harmony, and protect all who serve in harm's way. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our thanks in every circumstance for Your kindness in Christ and the certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life. We pray especially for [...]. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give us faith to believe the New Testament in Your blood, to seek Your Holy Supper for the forgiveness of our sins, and to confess Your truth with honest hearts in communion with one another at this altar today. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

✠ The Sacrament ✠

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, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

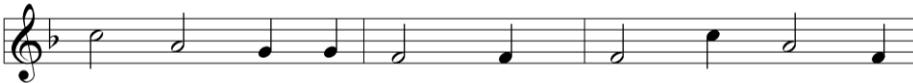
The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord’s Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of Calvary or churches within our fellowship come forward to receive the Lord’s Supper.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

14 – Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him; Pre -
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn



pare your - selves to - day, Pre - pare to greet the
 pare for him the best. Cast out what would of -
 rais - es up on high; Be - neath his feet in
 not from me a - side, And help me to re -



Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To
 fend him, This great, this heav’n - ly guest. Make
 ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The
 ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From



us by grace a - lone The truth and
 straight, make plain the way; The low - ly
 heart sin - cere and right, That heeds God's
 stall and man - ger low Come now to



light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 dwell with - in me; I'll sing your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth your glo - ry show.

SENDING PRAYER

M Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

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.

CLOSING HYMN

12 – Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the cap - tives 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, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 pris - on held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst; The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51, abr., alt.
 Tune: CHESTERFIELD (CM) Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

He has covered me
with the
ROBE
of
RIGHTEOUSNESS.

ISAIAH 61:10, ESV