

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 15, 2019

Worship Focus

COME, LORD JESUS!

**The Forerunner Explains to his Disciples:
The Christ is here!**

Come,
LORD JESUS

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Order of Service for
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Common Service with Communion

Christian Worship, p. 15

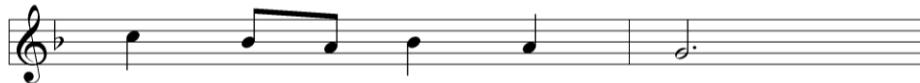
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OPENING HYMN

1 – The Advent of Our King



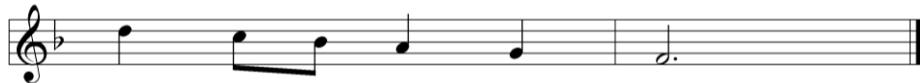
1 The ad - vent of our King Our
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In -
 3 O Zi - on's Daugh - ter, rise To
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He
 5 Be - fore the dawn - ing Day Let



prayers must now em - ploy,
 car - nate deigns to be,
 meet your low - ly King,
 soon will come a - gain
 sin's dark deeds be gone,



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To
 Nor let a faith - less heart de - spise The
 And his true mem - bers all u - nite With
 The sin - ful self be put a - way, The



strains of ho - ly joy.
 set his ser - vants free.
 peace he comes to bring.
 him in heav'n to reign.
 new self now put on.

6. All glory to the Son,
 Who comes to set us free,
 With Father, Spirit, ever one
 Through all eternity.

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.



C: A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so 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.



C: A - men.

✘ The Word ✘

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

God has promised that the coming of the Messiah will change everything – and he will!

ISAIAH 35:1 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

³ Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; ⁴ say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.”

⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

⁸ And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it. ⁹ No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰ and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

PSALM 146

Adult Choir

Words: Psalter, 1887, alt., P.D.

Music: Darwin Jordan Copyright Darwin Jordan Music; arr. Marcus Hong

*Praise the Lord! Sing hallelujah! Come, our great Redeemer praise.
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes, nor on human help depend.
They shall die, to dust returning; all their thoughts and plans shall end.*

*Happy are the ones professing Jacob's God to be their aid.
They are blest whose hope of blessing on the Lord their God is stayed.
Heaven and earth the Lord created, seas and all that they contain.
He delivers from oppression; righteousness he will maintain.*

*Food he daily gives the hungry, sets the mourning prisoner free,
raises those bowed down with anguish, makes the sightless eyes to see.
God our Savior loves the righteous, and the stranger he befriends,
helps the orphan and the widow, judgment on the wicked sends.*

*Praise the Lord! Sing hallelujah! Come, our great Redeemer praise.
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever; through all ages he is King.
Unto him, your God, O Zion, joyful hallelujahs sing.*

SECOND LESSON

James 5:7-11

Patience and perseverance are admirable Christian qualities as we wait for Jesus' return.

JAMES 5:7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we consider blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

M We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

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.

✘ Sermon ✘

Matthew 11:2-11

Faith Pushed to the Brink

Sermon notes:

✘ Praise and Prayer ✘

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.

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the Lord's mercy upon all of us and upon all people as they have need.

Brief silence

For joy in the Lord, that we may be sustained in the time of waiting for His will and purpose to unfold in these latter days, for patience under trials, and for hope that endures the changes and chances of this mortal life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For hearts that trust in the Lord at all times; for courage to confront our doubts and fears with the Word of the Lord; and for strength to fulfill our vocations of worship, witness, prayer and works of mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our bold confession of Christ in a world unfriendly to the Gospel, for compassion and kindness in words and works that we may not distract from the Gospel or become barriers to its proclamation, and for those on mission fields, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the world and those entrusted with positions of leadership in government, for the service men and women who defend us against the enemies of our nation, and for those who enact and enforce the laws which protect us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the joy of work, for thankful hearts to rejoice in the fruits of our labors, for ways God has enabled us to provide for our families and those in our care, for those seeking employment and seeking better jobs, and for our care for those less fortunate and those in need, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the agencies of the church through which we care for the poor and hungry, the widow and orphan, the elderly and infirm, those suffering mental illness, and the sick and those suffering afflictions of mind and body [*especially _____*], let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the dying, that they may receive care; for the grieving, that they may be comforted; for those who care for the dying and those who mourn [*especially _____*], let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For joyful hearts, for peace in the world and peace in our lives, for faith to receive the most precious food of all in the communion of Christ's body and blood, and for the nourishment of our lives in Christ through this Holy Sacrament, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For thankful hearts, that we may remember those who persevered in time of trial and now rest in Christ from all their labors; for humility, that we may learn from their example and so be faithful in our own day; and for the Lord to hasten the day when Christ shall come again in His glory, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

O blessed Lord, we are not worthy of Your grace and favor, and yet You continue to lavish upon us the riches of Your mercy. Hear the prayers of Your people who cry to You on behalf of themselves and all those in need. Grant to us the sufficient grace to supply all that we need for this body and this life, until that day when Christ comes again to bring us into Your eternal presence to praise Your goodness forevermore; through Jesus Christ, 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 ✠

PREFACE and PROPER PREFACES

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.”

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

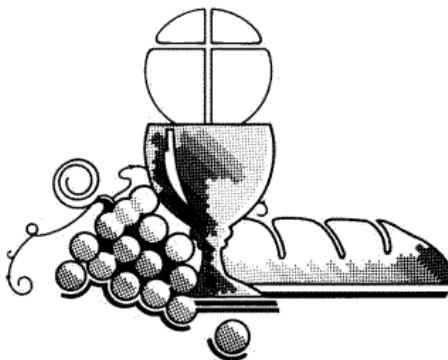
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. 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

353 - Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness With a
 2 Praise the one who blessed the chil - dren With a
 3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who



lib - er - a - ting light; Praise the one who frees the
 strong, yet gen - tle, word; Praise the one who drove out
 suf - fered in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic -



pris - 'ners, Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
 de - mons With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
 to - rious That we may know God by grace.



Praise the one who preached the gos - pel, Heal - ing
 Praise the one who brings cool wa - ter To the
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, See - ing



ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing storms and feed - ing
 des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this well comes liv - ing
 what our God has done; Let us praise the true Re -



thou - sands With the Fa - ther's word of peace.
 wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 deem - er, Praise the one who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt. © 1987 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
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Tune: BEACH SPRING (87 87 D) attr. Benjamin F. White, 1800-79.

✱ Sending ✱

in Word and Sacrament. The Church encompasses all these facets of the season in the single word that defines Advent worship: “Come!” Throughout the prayers, verses, and lessons that single word is our invitation, our anticipation, our sure and certain hope. Come, Lord Jesus!

With Advent comes the beginning of a new Church Year. Each of the three years of the Church Year cycle emphasizes one of the synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) with readings from John interspersed throughout each of the years. The Church Year 2019/2020 follows the readings appointed for Year A (confer *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*, page 163) with Gospel lessons predominantly from Matthew.

As a devotional preparation for your Church Year journey, read through the Gospel of Matthew in the coming weeks.

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: “COME, LORD JESUS”

This Advent season our worship will focus on the theme, “**Come, Lord Jesus!**” as the Word of God prepares our hearts to celebrate Jesus’ first advent, give thanks for his present advent, and rejoice in his advent yet to come.

OUR THEME FOR TODAY:

THE FORERUNNER EXPLAINS TO HIS DISCIPLES: THE CHRIST IS HERE!

“Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” Over the ages, theologians have debated whether John’s question was born from his own insecurities about Jesus or if it was John’s way of forcing his skeptical disciples to face their doubts. Whatever the motivation, the result was the same – Jesus had the opportunity to testify to his calling as “the Christ.”

Compared to the prophets of old – among whom John is the last – John’s ministry was not long. But for as many days as John set up shop in the wilds of Judea, his message was primarily, “get ready, Messiah (Christ) *is coming*; he’s *coming!*” But then the “Lamb of God” came to John’s wilderness church, and John anointed him with water (baptism) while the Father anointed him with the Holy Spirit and power. John’s sermons changed from “the Christ is *near*” to “the Christ is *here!*” With the appearance of Jesus, John’s ministry faded – as it was supposed to. The time for preparation ceased with Jesus’ revelation as the Christ.

We live in the unusual place in which we can say, “Christ is *here!*” – he came once and continues his presence in Word and sacrament – and also say “Christ is *near!*” – his final advent can come at any time. Appreciate the “*here-ness*” of Christ today because he alone makes it possible to survive his final “*near-ness*”.