



December 18, 2024

The Third Wednesday of Advent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

You have said, “Seek My face.” My heart says to You, “Your face, Lord, do I seek.”

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Psalm 27:1,4,7-8, 13-14

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We light the third Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh, and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5

The third, pink Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* in Latin means “rejoice,” as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

John 15:10-11

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

John 1:9

Guided by the light of joy, we respond with the psalmist: “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

And His faithfulness to all generations.”

Psalm 100:1-5

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Once He Came in Blessing”

♪ Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing; Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy; Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

♪ Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us Precious food from heaven,
Pledge of peace here given, Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.
♪ Soon will come that hour When with mighty power Christ will come in splendor
And will judgment render, With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.
♪ Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us. Keep our hearts believing,
That we, grace receiving, Ever may console You Till in heav'n we bless You.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 333 -Text: Johann Horn c.1490-1547; tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78 vv. 1&4,
tr. Lutheran Service Book 2006 vv.2-3; Setting: Henry V. Gerike b.1948; ©2006 Concordia Publishing House;
Tune: Michael Weisse c.1480-1534; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Confession and Absolution

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

In this season of penitence and reflection, let us think of our unworthiness; confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed; and ask for His merciful forgiveness.

Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting.

Amen.

A Time of Silence

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty Father, by the advent of whose Son into the world the kingdom of heaven is open to all who believe in Him: grant us Your Holy Spirit so that we may believe in Him with our whole heart and so serve Him in our daily lives, that when He comes again we may, together with Mary, our Lord's mother; the prophets of old; and all of the faithful, by Your mercy be gathered together into the Kingdom that abides eternal in the heavens; through Your mercy, O God, who lives and reigns forever, world without end.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

Daniel 7:13–14

¹³“I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

¹⁴And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Colossians 3:12–17

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

♪ Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

♪ Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

♪ Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 363-Text: Franz Joseph Mohr 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young 1820-85;
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Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Luke 1:46–56

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Proclamation of the Word *Please Be Seated*

“Song of Mary”

Luke 1:46–56

The Hymn

“My Soul Rejoices”

- ♪ My soul rejoices, My spirit voices- Sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior Has shown me favor- Sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing, Join in confessing God, who is solely Mighty and holy-
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His mercy surely Shall rest securely On all who fear Him,
Love and revere Him- O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
- ♪ His arm now baring, His strength declaring- Sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters- Sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted; The meek exalted. Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy-
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
Here is the token All that was spoken to Abr’ham’s offspring
God is fulfilling- O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 933 -Text: Stephen P. Starke b.1955; Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi c1556-1622
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Prayer of the Church

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Benediction

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.
Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

- ♪ Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undeified, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.
- ♪ Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.
- ♪ Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undeified But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 374-Text: Joseph Simpson Cook 1859-1953
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Postlude

Door Offering