

## THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT – DECEMBER 12, 2021

### PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#257 5-6

*O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.*

*O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *Matthew 28:19, 1 John 1:8-9*

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

**Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and each other.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Together, we pray:

**Come Lord Jesus, for without you we are lost in our sin:  
the things we have done, the things we have left undone,  
the sins we are aware of, and the sins known only to you.  
Come Lord Jesus, to forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that our lives would reflect the holiness you came to give us.  
Amen.**

**FORGIVENESS** *John 20:22-23*



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, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

### GREETING 2 Corinthians 13:13

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray:

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *John 6:68*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd chapter.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

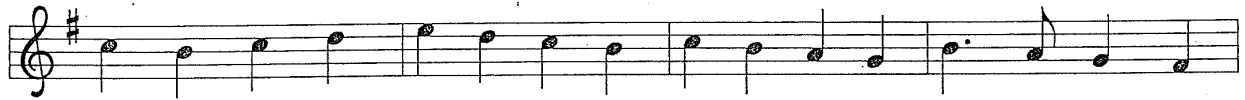
**"Welcome, Child of God"**



Rain - drops, o - ceans, lakes, and riv - ers; wel - come, child of God.



Moth - ers, fa - thers, broth - ers, sis - ters; wel - come, child of God.



When the world feels wide a - round you, when the dark of night sur-rounds you,



we are here to tend and guide you. Wel - come, child of God.

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**SERMON**

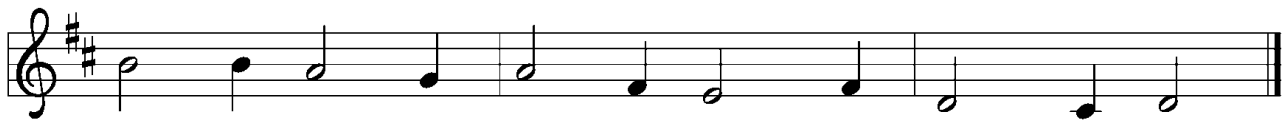




1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

## **NICENE CREED**

Let us confess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

**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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *1 Timothy 2:1-4*

**SHARING THE PEACE** *John 20:19*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/CONNECTION CARDS**

**PRESENTATION OF BIBLES**

## OFFERING

### OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord, and prepare us now to receive him as he comes to us in his Holy Supper. Amen.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *2 Timothy 4:22, Colossians 3:1, Psalm 136*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

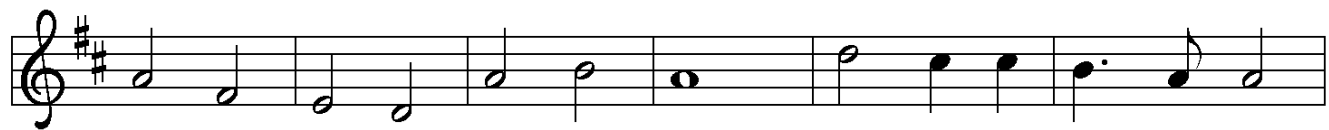
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....and join their unending hymn:



**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** *Isaiah 6:3, Psalm 118:26, Matthew 21:9*



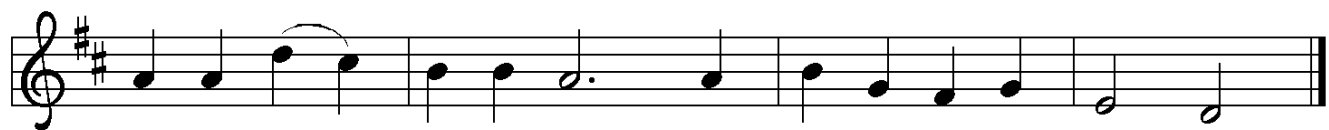
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION** *Matthew 26:26-29, Luke 22:15-20, 1 Corinthians 11:4-5*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

## **PRAYER FOR USE BY THOSE NOT JOINING US IN PERSON**

*The following is adapted from an ancient prayer now in wide use in Lutheran, Episcopal, and Anglican congregations during this time when many are unable to be present to receive the Lord's Supper. Those joining us online are invited to use this prayer at this point in the liturgy. Please know that Eucharistic Ministers are available to bring you the sacrament. If you are interested in this ministry, please call the church office.*

**In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where your Holy Supper is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:22-27*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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