

Sunday, December 13, 2020 – Advent 3

SERVICE OF THE WORD (pages 38-44 in *Christian Worship*)

Do you want the Savior who was promised? Not all do.

Remember, Jesus did not come to make your life comfortable but to give you eternal life.

WELCOME

HYMN SING – *You pick the hymn*

LITURGY: SERVICE OF THE WORD - *page 38ff in Christian Worship*

M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAISE AND PRAYER

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, 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!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

M: 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: Amen

FIRST LESSON: Malachi 4:1-6

¹ Look! The day is coming, burning like a blast furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble. The day that is coming will set them on fire, says the LORD of Armies, a day which will not leave behind a root or branch for them. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will rise, and there will be healing in its wings. You will go out and jump around like calves from the stall. ³ You will trample the wicked. They will surely be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I take action, says the LORD of Armies. ⁴ Remember the law of my servant Moses, which I dictated to him at Horeb to serve as statutes and judgments over all Israel. ⁵ Look! I am sending Elijah the prophet to you before the great and fearful day of the LORD comes! ⁶ He will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I would come and strike the land with complete destruction.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR: “Morning of Promise”

SECOND LESSON: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always. ¹⁷ Pray without ceasing. ¹⁸ In everything give thanks. For this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not extinguish the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt. ²¹ But test everything. Hold on to the good. ²² Keep away from every kind of evil. ²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and 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.

VERSE OF THE DAY – read by Pastor

Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.

Alleluia.

ALLELUIA RESPONSE – page 40

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL: *John 1:6-8,19-28*

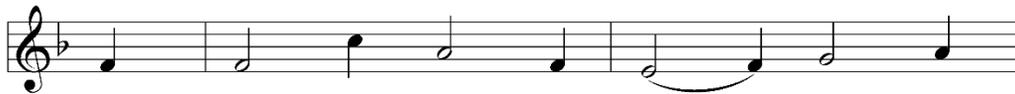
⁶ There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light....¹⁹ This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹ And they asked him, “Who are you then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” “No,” he answered. ²² Then they asked him, “Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³ He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ just as Isaiah the prophet said.” ²⁴ They had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ So they asked John, “Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?” ²⁶ “I baptize with water,” John answered. “Among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸ These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: Here ends the Gospel.

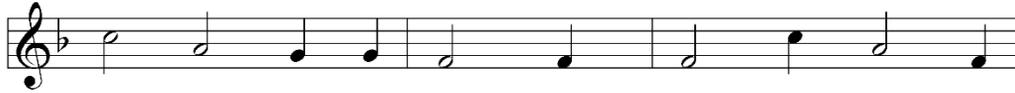
C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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 -



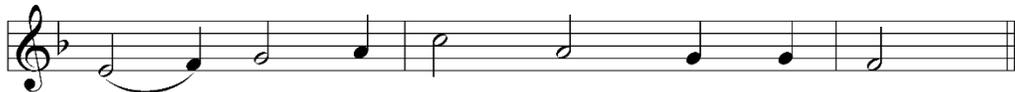
Sav - ior, Who takes your sins a - way. To
 fend him, This great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make
 ter - ror The haugh - ty soul shall lie. The
 ceive you This bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From



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.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62, alt.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 4, alt.

Tune: AUS MEINES HERZENS GRUNDE (76 76 67 76) *New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein*, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

MESSAGE: | Thessalonians 5:16-24

Advent – Preparing God's Way

APOSTLE'S CREED – page 41

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.

WELS CONNECTION: Academia Cristo

PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER - page 43

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Wayne & Nancy Pennell (transferred from Grace, Durand)

HYMN 19

ADVENT

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.

PRAYER – page 43

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BENEDICTION – page 44



HYMN 26

ADVENT

26 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
4 Je - sus comes on clouds tri - um - phant When the heav'ns shall



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
pass a - way. Je - sus comes a - gain in glo - ry;



Low - ly came on earth to die, Al - le - lu - ia!
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer, Al - le - lu - ia!
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
Let us, then, our hom - age pay, Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
ev - er sing - ing Till the dawn of end - less day.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, abr., alt.

Tune: SIEH, HIER BIN ICH, EHRENKÖNIG (87 87 87) *Geistreiches Gesang-Buch*, Darmstadt, 1698.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 24, at 7 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY SONG SERVICE

Friday, December 25, at 10:00 am

NEW YEAR'S EVE COMMUNION SERVICE

Thursday, December 31, at 7 pm

