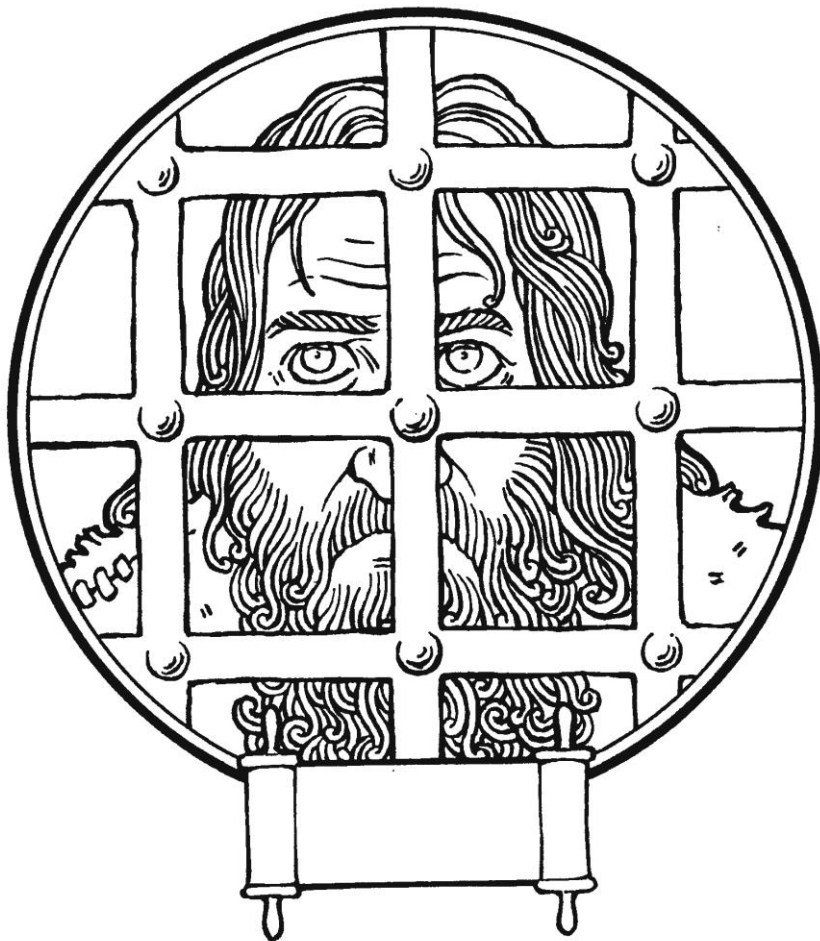


TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

611 S. ERIE
Wichita, KS 67211
316-685-1571
www.tlcwichita.org



Third Sunday in Advent

✠ GAUDETE ✠

December 17, 2023

JOHN THE BAPTIZER PREPARES THE WAY FOR THE LORD

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord . . ." (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "all flesh is grass" (Isa. 40:6). Now He asks from prison, "Are you the one who is to come . . .?" (Matt. 11:2). Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

Communing at this Altar

The Lord's Supper is celebrated and offered here every Lord's day!

**Guests wishing to join our confession and receive this Holy Sacrament now, and in the future, are asked to meet with the pastor before communing.*

Because we consider communing at this altar a public declaration of fellowship in what our church believes, teaches, and confesses, we welcome to commune those who:

- ✠ are baptized into the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Mt 28:19);
- ✠ confess Jesus Christ as their personal Savior from sin;
- ✠ discern the Lord's Body and Blood as truly present, together with the bread and wine (1 Cor 11:29), as taught by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the Small Catechism;
- ✠ examine themselves and repent, as instructed in the Scriptures (1 Cor 11:28);
- ✠ believe the words of Jesus, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" (Mt 26:28);

If this is *not* your confession, or you're seeking a church home and wish to learn more about Trinity, our Pastor will gladly meet with you after the service. In the meantime, we welcome you forward for a blessing during the distribution. Simply come forward and, when kneeling, **cross your arms over your chest**, indicating that you'd like to receive a blessing.

As you commune, select either the individual cup or the common chalice.

Communicants who cannot easily come to the altar will be communed in the pew.

Please notify an usher or the Pastor beforehand if you need such assistance.

To help prepare yourself to receive the Lord's Body and Blood you may read "Christian Questions with Their Answers" found on pages 329 and 330 of the hymnal.

ADVENT RUBRICS (...and Pink?)

Unique to Advent and Lent the Liturgy drops the Greater Gloria ("Gloria in Excelsis"). The Church sets that magnificent hymn of praise aside until we hear the angels sing it at the birth of Christ! Also, you'll notice that as the weeks of Advent go forth there will be two collects: the collect of the day (particular to the readings appointed) as well as the collect for the first Sunday in Advent. Finally, you can't help but notice the Advent Wreath with four candles around the outside. This wreath is a calendar – slowing us down, week by week, drawing us in anticipation towards Christmas. Each of the four candles represents a different aspect of our waiting: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Three candles are blue; **one is pink/rose**. The pink calls us to rejoice and find the refreshment needed in a period of fasting (there's something similar in Lent, too). The week of Gaudete is marked by this joyous rose. Advent wreaths at home with daily family prayer and devotion is highly encouraged as well.

✠ THE DIVINE SERVICE ✠

Setting Three, Lutheran Service Book, p.184

HYMN OF INVOCATION ~ *When All The World Was Cursed*

346

△ Please stand and face the cross as it enters.

✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the Name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT

Ps. 85:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Phil. 4:4-5



P Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

C Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*
whose hope is in the | Lord his God,

P who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,*
who keeps faith for- | ever;

C who executes justice for | the oppressed,
who gives food to the | hungry.*

P The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

C *Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.*

**You may bow your head at this point
in praise of the Name of the Holy Trinity*

P Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

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

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the

word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Ps. 80:1-2

A You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.*

Stir up Your might and come to | save us!

C Give ear, O Shepherd of | Israel,*

You who lead Joseph | like a flock!

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA and VERSE



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

P Stir up | your might
and come to | save us.



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have

good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;

**You may genuflect
in reverence of the incarnation*

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

345

SERMON

Stand

OFFERTORY ~ *What Shall I Render to the Lord*

Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Sit

OFFERING

The offering is a joyful response of faith. It should be free, generous, and offered with thanksgiving to God.

The offering today goes toward the work and mission of the Church.

Guests, especially, should not feel obliged to give.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

After each petition respond: "Hear our prayer."

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

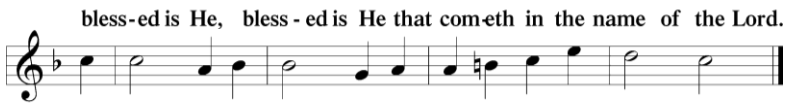
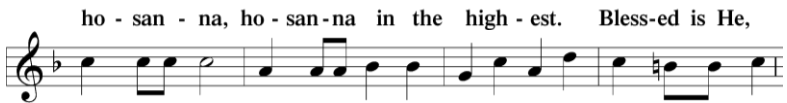
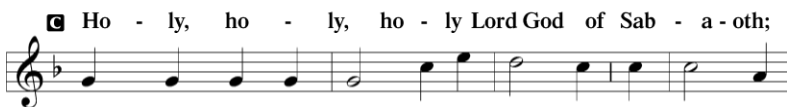
Psalm 136

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.



☐ A - men.

AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29



☐ O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



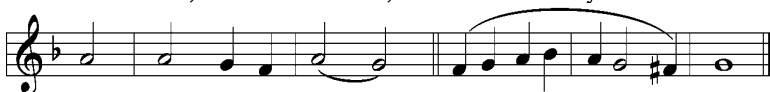
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

Please take a moment and read 'COMMUNING AT THIS ALTAR' in the front cover of the bulletin. Guests are invited to please speak with the Pastor before communing for the first time.

Prayer Before Reception of Holy Communion

O Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof; but speak only Your Word, and my soul will be healed. I will take the Bread of Heaven and call upon the Name of the Lord. What shall I give to the Lord for all that He has given to me? I will take the Cup of Salvation and call upon the Name of the Lord. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS ~

<i>Praise The One Who Breaks The Darkness</i>	849
<i>Comfort, Comfort Ye My People</i>	347
<i>On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry</i>	344
<i>Prepare The Royal Highway</i>	343

Prayer After Reception of Holy Communion

I live, and yet not I, but Christ lives in me. What we have received with our mouths, O Lord, let us keep with faithful hearts, that this Gift given us in earthly time may bring us to eternal salvation. Amen.

Additional prayers to prepare for receiving the Sacrament are found in the front cover of the hymnal.

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

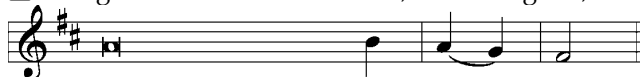
Luke 2:29-32



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

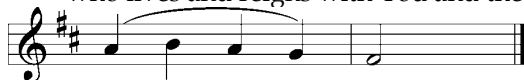
A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS

P The Lord be with you.



R And with thy spir - it.

A Bless we the Lord.



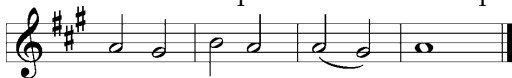
R Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



R A-men, a-men, a - men.

△ Please remain standing and face the cross in reverence as it processes out.

CLOSING HYMN ~ Hark The Glad Sound

349





ADVENT AND CHRIST-MASS SCHEDULE

12/6/23 ~ Midweek I
12/13/23 ~ Midweek II
12/20/23 ~ Midweek III

Wednesdays, Private Absolution at 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Order of Vespers
Wednesdays, 7:00pm

ChristMass Services:

12/24/23 ~ ChristMass Eve Candlelight Lessons
~ 7:00pm

12/24/23 ~ ChristMass Eve Divine Service (Midnight Mass)
~ 11:00pm

12/25/22 ~ ChristMass Day Divine Service
~ 10:00am

12/31/22 ~ Eve of the Circumcision and Naming of Jesus
(New Year's Eve Divine Service)
~ 5:30pm

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." ~ Luke 2:11