



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

### Grace Lutheran Church

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Rochester, Minnesota 55906  
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The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
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Pete Heyrman, President  
Ron Daede, Elder  
Phil Sanders, Elder  
Rochester Central Lutheran School

Sunday December 14, 2025  
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## Serving Today

### Band Director

Jody Weckwerth

### Traditional Worship Band

**Baritone Horn** - Tyler Pardeik; **Clarinet** - Sherry Foster, Brenda Nelson, Kari Pardeik, Michelle Redmond (*bass clarinet*), Kim Schauer; **Flute** - Emilie Pentico; **Keyboard, Violin** – Beth Daede, **Percussion** - Corey Nelson, Ruth Poole (*Xylophone*); **Saxophone** - Hope Nelson, Matt Wingren (*baritone sax*), Nola Wingren; **Trumpet** - Isaac Nelson, Rick Weckwerth; **Tuba** - Craig Weckwerth

### Choir Director

Brenda Nelson

### Choir

Linda Billman, Mary Ann Groven, Ted Kueker, Carol Lynch, Emilie Pentico, Ruth Poole, Sue Quast, Michelle Redmond, Lisa Sandeno, Kim Schauer, Lil Spilde, Lyn Strauss, Craig Weckwerth, Jody Weckwerth, Rick Weckwerth, Matthew Wingren, Nola Wingren.

### Lay Reader

Phil Sanders

### Elders/Ushers

Phil Sanders

### Livestream

Curtis Meier

## Silent Prayer Before Worship

O God, as we faithfully await the birth of your son, Jesus, let us be glad and rejoice. In our families, schools, and lives, help us to share the joy of Christ's love with others. Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

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.

## Congregational Prayers

✠ Diane Grieve

✠ Allen Kvittem

✠ Don & Kathy Jungwirth

✠ Sam Konakowitz

✠ John & Bea Beilke

✠ Jon Swanson

✠ Pat Swanson

## Lectionary Summary for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

### ***The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross***

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see *“the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful”* (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, *“be patient”* and *“establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand”* (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as *“the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up,”* so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that *“sorrow and sighing shall flee away”* (Is. 35:10).

Prelude 1 performed by the Traditional Worship Band

O Come, O Come Emanuel

Prelude 2 performed by the Traditional Worship Band

Silent Night

### Hymn of Invocation

LSB 342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied



## Confession of Sins

**C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

## Absolution

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your 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.

**C** Amen.

## Introit

*Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

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

I will hope con- | tinually\*  
and will praise you yet | more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the day,\*  
for their number is past my | knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;\*  
I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have | taught me,\*  
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,\*  
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all | those to  
come.

**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.**

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

## Kyrie

**C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**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** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 35:1–10*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.  
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gradual

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.\*  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.  
Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;\*  
righteous and having sal- | vation.  
Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.\*  
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.



## Hymn

## LSB 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus  
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble. As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."  
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

*Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.;  
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois  
 Text and tune: Public domain*

## Choir Anthem

*Mary, Did You Know?*

## Epistle

*James 5:7–11*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Choir Anthem

*He Whom Joyous Shepherds Praised*

## Alleluia and Verse

### Alleluia

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### Verse

**C** These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

### Alleluia

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 11:2–15*

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the 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. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”



<sup>7</sup>As 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? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

<sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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.



## Hymn of the Day

LSB 358 From Heav'n Above to Earth I Come

sts. 1-4

1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your  
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by

news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your  
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,

joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
low - ly birth, Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

## Offering

Offertory performed by the Traditional Worship Band

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

## Prayer of the Church



## Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

## Benedicamus

**A** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.  
**C** Amen.



## Hymn to Depart

LSB 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



- 1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
- 2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
- 3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born King!”

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47; Text and tune: Public domain*

Postlude performed by the Traditional Worship Band

*Joy to the World*

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