

Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022
Order of Service: Creative Worship



With Advent hope
our praises reach
joyfully To greet
our Lord's arrival
In His humility.

AS WE GATHER

Advent is a most joyful time and a time for great praise of our God. Today is the “joyful Sunday” in Advent. With Mary’s beautiful song, the Magnificat, we exult that God has “done great things” and that “His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation” (*LSB*, pp. 248–49). With Mary, we rejoice that God “has shown strength with His arm” especially to those who are lowly and humbled. In his paraphrase of the Magnificat, hymnwriter Stephen Starke invites us to “Sing the greatness of the Lord” and “With praise and blessing Join in confessing God, who is solely Mighty and holy” (*LSB* 933:1). There is so much joy in Advent—it simply must be shared!



Baptism – Today we welcome Josie Joanne Koronkiewicz into the family of God through the waters of Holy Baptism. We pray that our gracious heavenly Father would keep Josie in her baptismal grace, that she may grow up to lead a godly life to the praise and honor her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

BAPTISM HYMN – LSB 605 “Father Welcomes”

ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM – Page 268ff

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

(Presentation by Prince of Peace Children)

Processional Hymn – “Oh Come, Little Children” (sung by congregation)

1. Oh, come, little children, oh, come one and all;
To Bethlehem haste to the manger so small.
God’s Son for a gift has been sent you this night
To be your Redeemer, your Joy and Delight.
2. He’s born in a stable for you and for me;
Draw near by the bright, gleaming starlight to see,
In swaddling clothes lying, so meek and so mild
And purer than angels, the heavenly Child.
3. See, Mary and Joseph, with love-beaming eyes,
Are gazing upon the rude bed where He lies;
The shepherds are kneeling with hearts full of love,
While angels sing loud alleluias above.
4. Kneel down and adore Him with shepherds today,
Oh, lift up your hands now and praise Him as they;
Rejoice that a Savior from sin you can boast,
And join in the song of the heavenly host.

Responsory “Because He Lives” (*Pastor and Children*)

Introduction

Little Children, Can you Tell?

(Congregation sings the verse below and the children will respond in song.)

**Little children, can you tell,
Do you know the story well,
Ev'ry girl and ev'ry boy,
Why the angels sing for joy
On the Christmas morning?**

Angel's Announcement of Jesus' Birth

Story of Jesus Birth

Songs by Children –“In a Little Stable”, “Away in a Manger”, “Jesus Loves Me”

Prayer *(Pastor)*

HYMN – LSB 363 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

- 1. 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.**
- 2. 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!**
- 3. 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.**

HYMN – LSB 934 “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.
People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 35:1–10 (The desert shall rejoice and blossom.)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *James 5:7–11 (An encouragement for Christians to wait for the Lord with patience)*

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL AND VERSE *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.; Matthew 11:10b*

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

People: **Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**
Pastor: From the house of the Lord we bless You.

People: **Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 11:2–15 (Jesus speaks about John the Baptist.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED *The Third Article*

Pastor: The Third Sunday in Advent is a joy-filled Sunday in which we can thank God for His gracious plan for our salvation and for the Holy Spirit, who guides our lives of faith and joins us together in the community of the Church. We speak the words of the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed with joyful confidence:

People: **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.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

SERMON

OFFERING *(The Offerings previously collected are brought forward)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER **LSB 958 "Our Father Who Art in Heaven - IIa"**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN **LSB 349 “Hark the Glad Sound”**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.