

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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Rev. Daniel J. Bishop, Pastor

Carol Gnehm - Interim Principal, Good Shepherd Lutheran School - 347-2020

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 14, 2025

Christ's blessings to all! **To our visitors**, we rejoice to have you gathered together with us in our Lord's House this day & look forward to having you with us again. If you are searching for a Church home, **please introduce yourself to Pastor** afterwards, or indicate such together **with your contact information** in the red 'Fellowship Booklets' located in each pew.

The Order of Service without Holy Communion

Prelude

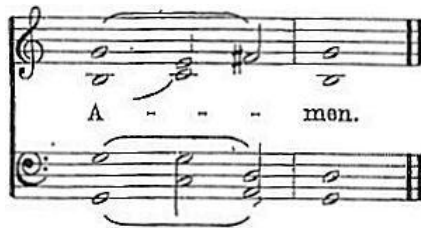
Hymn – 66

"Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes"

Stand

Invocation

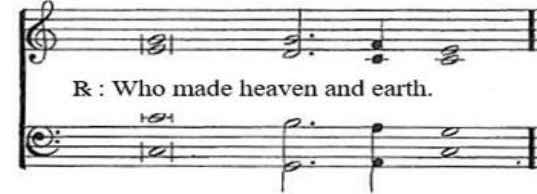
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.



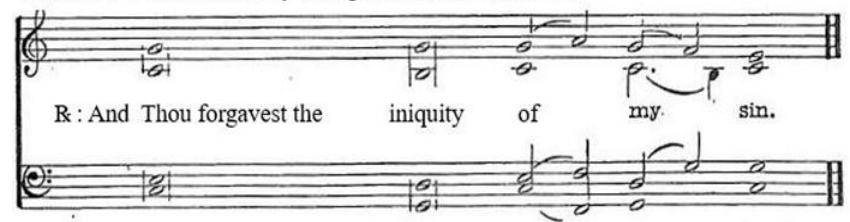
The Confession of Sins

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.

V: Our help is in the name of the Lord.



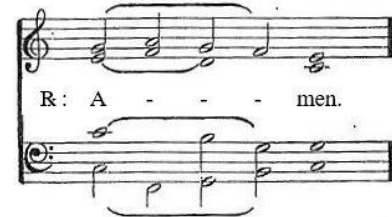
V: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord



Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this Lord, unto us all.



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

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

I will hope continually

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 forsake me,

until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

Gloria Patri

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Ohrist, have mer - cy up -

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

The Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on high: And on earth peace; good will toward

men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je - sus Ohrist;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-on us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

The Salutation

V: The Lord be with you.

R: And with thy Spir-it.

Let us pray.

The Collect for 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.

R: A - - - men.

Sit

The Catechism Review – The Sacrament of the Altar

What is the Sacrament of the Altar?

It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Where is this written?

The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: 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."

What is the benefit of this eating and drinking?

These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 35:1–10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
²it 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.
³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say 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.”
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then 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;
⁷the 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.
⁸And 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.
⁹No 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.
¹⁰And 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.

Choir “Prepare the Way”

Epistle James 5:7–11

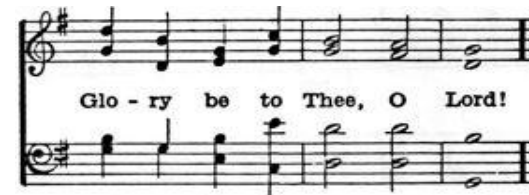
⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, 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.

Stand



Holy Gospel Matthew 11:2-15

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



²When 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.”

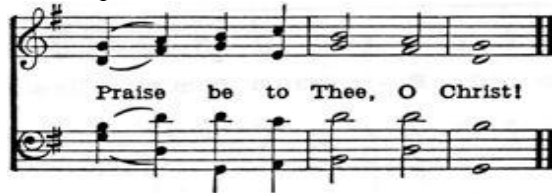
⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to 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.’

¹¹Truly, 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. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



The Apostles' Creed

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 Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Sermon Hymn #64

Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes”

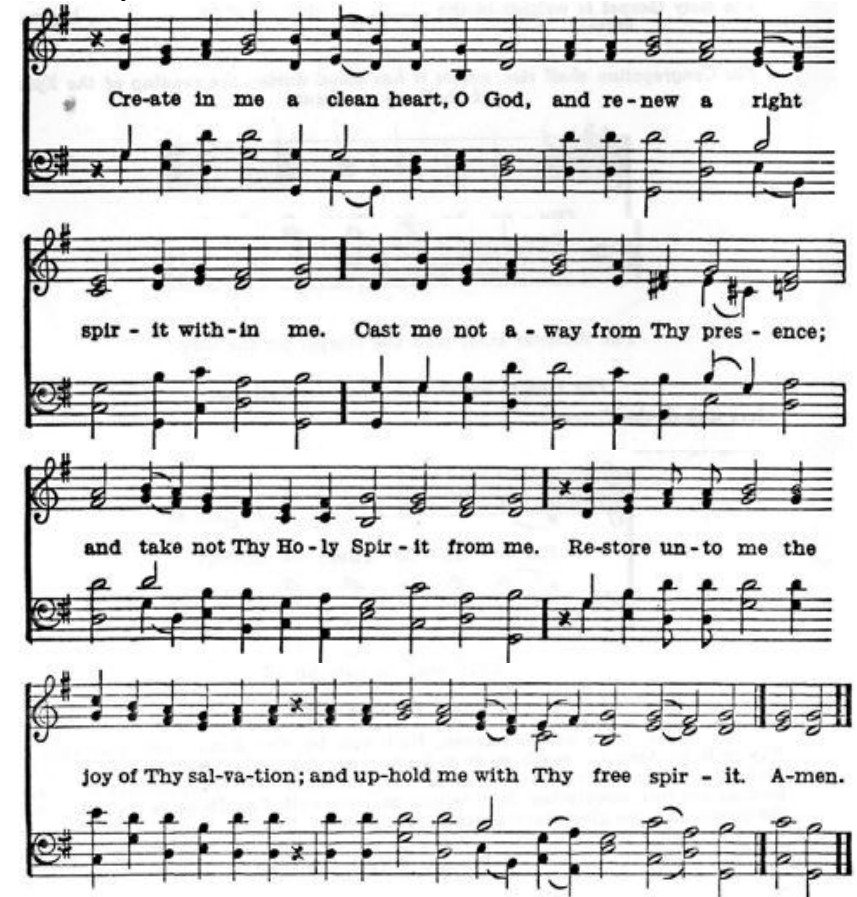
Sermon “Have Patience; the Lord Has a Purpose”

James 5:10-11

- I. The Lord has given us good examples of suffering and patience.
- II. The Lord builds us up in Christian patience by His compassionate and merciful purpose.

Stand

Offertory



Sit

The Offering

Stand

The General Prayer

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.

Sit

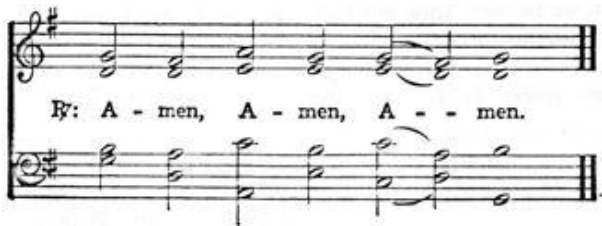
Hymn #58, v. 1, 4, 5, 9 (2nd Tune)
“O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee”

Stand
The Collect for the Word / Church



The Benediction

The Lord bless thee and keep thee.
The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace.



Sit
Closing Hymn #74

“Once He Came in Blessing”

Silent Prayer & Postlude

Daily Readings December 14: Is. 30:15–26; Rev. 2:1–29; 15: Is. 30:27–31:9; Rev. 3:1–22; 16: Is. 32:1–20; Rev. 4:1–11; 17: Is. 33:1–24; Rev. 5:1–14; 18: Is. 34:1–2, 8–35:10; Rev. 6:1–17; 19: Is. 40:1–17; Rev. 7:1–17; 20: Is. 40:18–41:10; Rev. 8:1–13.

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