

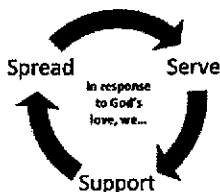
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MISSION STATEMENT:

*In response to God's love for us, we **SERVE** God,
SUPPORT Christian fellowship,
And **SPREAD** the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people.*

Volume 76

December 13, 2020

No. 50

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 AM

AS WE GATHER – *In our Advent preparations today, John the apostle and evangelist adds his testimony along with John the Baptist, holding before us the joy of Jesus as the light who gives to all who receive Him and believe in His name the right to become children of God. Because of our Lord's continual supply of grace by His Word and Sacraments, we are enabled with Him to "greatly rejoice in the LORD"; for by His Spirit of righteousness we lead lives of holiness of faith. This holiness continually rejoices in the Lord, prays, and give thanks in all circumstances. With John the apostle and John the Baptist, we rejoice, always prepared by faith to welcome and worship our Lord and Savior, who comes to us daily with healing and deliverance.*

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

♣ [Means please stand; ♣ Means please be seated]

♣ OPENING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne	And	ev	-	'ry	voice	a	song.
burst,	The	i	-	ron	fet	-	ters
grace	To en	-	rich	the	hum	-	ble
ring	With	Thy		be	-	lov	-
						ed	name.

Tune and text: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
- C** **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- P** *Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.*
- C** **Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves. Make us truly repentant, that we may receive the holiness of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.**
- P** *The true light has come. To all who receive Him, He makes to be the children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to 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.**

INTROIT

Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7

- P** *Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,*
 - C** **and grant us your salvation.**
 - P** *Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,*
 - C** **for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**
 - P** *Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,*
 - C** **that glory may dwell in our land.**
 - P** *Yes, the LORD will give what is good,*
 - C** **and our land will yield its increase.**
 - P** *Righteousness will go before him*
 - C** **and make his footsteps a way.**
- All:** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** *Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,*
 - C** **and grant us your salvation.**

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
- C** **And also with you.**

P *Let us pray.*

All: 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. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

P *This is the Word of the Lord.*

G Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

P *This is the Word of the Lord.*

G Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Matthew 11:10b

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

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6–8, 19–28

P *The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.*

G Glory to You, O Lord.

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

P *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

G Praise to You, O Christ.

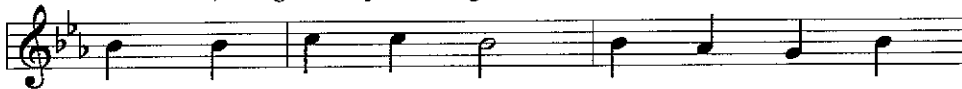
HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON "IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU (OR ME, EITHER)!" John 1:6-8, 19-28

- I. At Christmas, it is easy to just focus on our wants and expectations for the holiday.
- II. John the Baptist reminds us that Christmas is all about Jesus -- His coming into the world to save us.

† APOSTLE'S 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 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** *Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For the Holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God guard and defend us from all temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** *For Matthew Harrison, our Synod President, Roger Schlechte, our District President, for all pastors and servants of Christ, that they proclaim with faithfulness and clarity the true light of the Gospel in all they do, let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** *For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of all people, let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** *For all who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** *For those who are sick, [especially . . .], that God grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** *For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** Lord, have mercy.

P *Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

G **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P *O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

G **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.**

BENEDICTION

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

G **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

When All the World Was Cursed

LSB 346



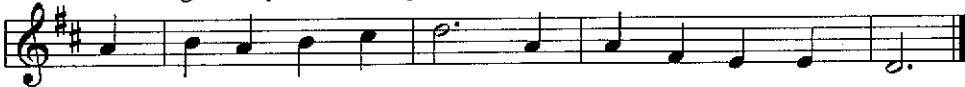
1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na - tion,
2 Be - fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy - ful meet - ing,
3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres - sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re - joic - ing,



Saint John the Bap - tist came With words of con - so - la - tion.
Con - fess - ing Him as Lord Whose moth - er he was greet - ing.
Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
The word pro - claimed by John, Our true re - pen - tance voic - ing,



With true fore - run - ner's zeal The great - er One he named,
By Jor - dan's roll - ing stream, A new E - li - jah bold,
Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
That glad - ly we may walk Up - on our Sav - ior's way



And Him, as yet un - known, As Sav - ior he pro - claimed.
He tes - ti - fied of Him Of whom the proph - ets told:
Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.
Un - til we live with Him In His e - ter - nal day.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

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WE WISH TO THANK the following for their participation in our worship service this morning:

Altar GuildElsie Leiker & Sharon Milliken
Counter Carl Kurth
Elder on Duty Doug Harder
Organist Daniel Vanderhyde
Sanitation CEO (Clean Every Object)..... Al Axford
Service Web Recorder..... Robert Showalter
Service Live Streaming Stuart Ruwet
Usher Phil Vandre
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