

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

2695 S. Franklin St., Denver, Colorado 80210

303-722-1424 / email:marcella@christlutherandenver.org

www.christlutherandenver.org

www.christlutheranecc.org



## 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 77

December 12, 2021

No. 49

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

+ Choral Cantata +

Order of Worship -9:00 AM

**AS WE GATHER** – Some Advent wreaths have a pink candle for this Third Sunday in Advent. The festive, joyful pink candle reflects today's Readings, which begin to anticipate the unbridled joy that Jesus' birth brings. We do many joyful things during Advent. We sing Christmas carols, bake cookies, decorate our homes inside and out, and travel far and wide to visit those we love. Yet all these joyful things point to an even greater joy—the joy that comes by the Creator of the universe, the Lord almighty, who loves you, forgives you in Jesus, and cares about you beyond human measure! "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

*"The Advent of our King"*

by George Brandon

## WELCOME

[♩] Means please stand; [♫] Means please be seated]

## ♩ OPENING HYMN

*The Advent of our King*

LSB 331



1 The ad-vent of our King Our prayers must now em-ploy,  
2 The ev-er-last-ing Son In-car-nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi-on's daugh-ter, rise To meet your low-ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a-gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho-ly joy.  
Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To set His ser-vants free.  
Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem-bers all u-nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5. Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.



6. All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity. Amen.

## INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Zephaniah 3:14a, 15b; 16b-17, 20

**P** *In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart.*

**C** **The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.**

**P** *"Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.*

**C** **The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;**

**P** *He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;*

**C** **He will exult over you with loud singing.**

**P** *I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.*

**C** **We worship You, O Lord!**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Psalm 25:6-7

**P** *Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.*

[A time of silence is observed.]

**P** *We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have wandered from You. Our wonderings have at times turned into doubts that drew us away from You.*

**C** **Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

**P** *Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;*

**C** **according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

**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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C** **Amen.**

## INTROIT

Psalm 146:5-8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

**P** *Rejoice in the Lord always;*

**C** **again I will say, Rejoice.**

**P** *Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,*

**C** **whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

**P** *who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,*

**C** **who keeps faith forever;**

**P** *who executes justice for the oppressed,*

**C** **who gives food to the hungry.**

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

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

**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** *Rejoice in the Lord always;*

**C** **again I will say, Rejoice.**

## **SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**G** **And also with you.**

**P** *Let us pray. You, Lord Jesus, caused the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the possessed to be free, the dead to be raised.*

**All:** **By Your death and resurrection, You promise to raise us to new life. You are the One who alone can answer all our wonderings. You alone are the Way to abundant life. Fill us with the joy that comes from You alone that our lives may radiate Your joy in this broken world; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

*Zephaniah 3:14–20*

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

*Philippians 4:4–7*

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **ALLELUIA VERSE**

*Matthew 11:10b*

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

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Luke 7:18–28*

**P** *The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh 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.**

[please be seated]

## **THE HOPES AND FEARS OF ALL THE YEARS**

### **NARRATION**

### **SONG**

*The First Noel*

### **NARRATION**

### **SONG**

*Glory Be to God on High*

# NARRATION

## SONG

### *Christmas Bells with Joy are Ringing*

## NARRATION

### HYMN [congregation]

#### *What Child Is This*

LSB 370

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar-y's lap is  
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

Text and tune: Public domain

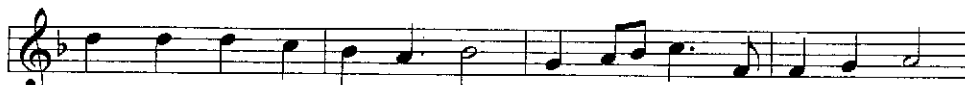
### HYMN [congregation]

#### *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

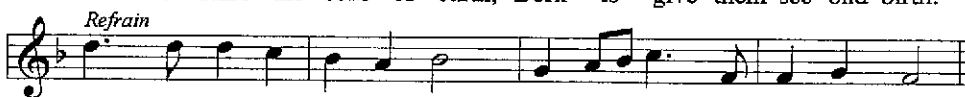
LSB 380

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
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!"  
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;  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,

(continued)



With the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec-ond birth.



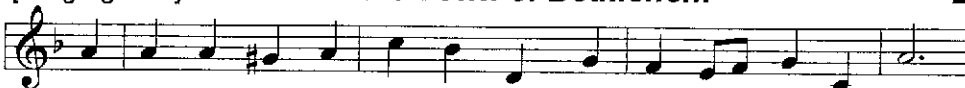
Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

Tune and text: Public domain

**HYMN [congregation]**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**LSB 361**



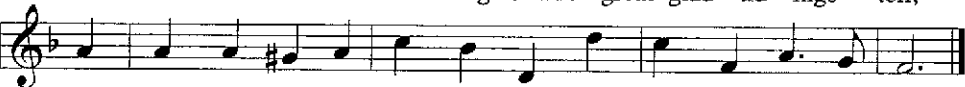
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

**NARRATION**

**SONG**

***Jesus, Messiah***

**NARRATION**

**SONG**

***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

## HANDBELLS

*Veni*

[As the bells play the final piece, please worship along in your heart with the words to these hymns, remembering our God is Emmanuel, God with us, come to give us hope from all our fears.]

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice ! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Love divine, all loves excelling joy of heaven, to earth come down.  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Love came down at Christmas, love incarnate, love divine.  
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him born the king of angels:  
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ  
the Lord.  
Love came down at Christmas.

## ♪ APOSTLE'S 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 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.

## ♪ OFFERING

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*

by Lewis H. Redner

## ♪ OFFERTORY

*Once He Came in Blessing*

LSB 333

1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -  
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -  
dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,  
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,

(continued)

Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -  
save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Tune and text: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** *As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer. O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout the world to be a demonstration of hope. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to yearn for that coming day when Jesus will reign forever in justice and righteousness, and all creation will be restored. We pray,*
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** *O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,*
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** *O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [especially . . .]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,*
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** *O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,*
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** *O Lord of might, help us during this Advent season both to look back to those days when our salvation was won in Your death and resurrection and to look forward to the day of Your return, when by Your power You will bring the dead to life and restore all creation. We pray,*
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**
- P** *O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,*

**C** hear us, coming Lord.

**P** You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.

## BENEDICTION

Philippians 4:5-7; Numbers 6:24-26

**P** The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 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.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

### Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

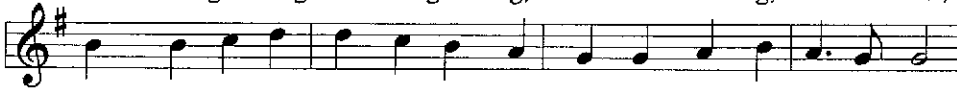
LSB 803



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!

2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,

△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais - ing Thee, their sun a - bove.

Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.

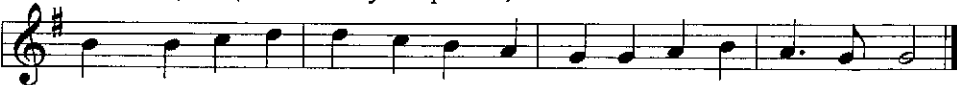
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.

Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di - vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.

Chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.

Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

Tune and text: Public domain



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[Birthdays: *Erin Petersen, Thelma Sprague, Debbie Vandre*]

**POSTLUDE**

***"Hark the Glad Sound"***

**by Jeffrey Blersch**

From *Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish*, Series C, Quarter 1.  
Copyright © 2021 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

~~~~~

Roger C. Wohletz, Pastor .....720-283-8128 / email: [pastorroger@christlutherandenver.org](mailto:pastorroger@christlutherandenver.org)  
 Renee Ortado, ECC Director / Preschool Teacher .....303-828-6735 / email: [renee@christlutherandenver.org](mailto:renee@christlutherandenver.org)  
 Beth Buss, Music Director.....970-778-5696 / email: [bethbuss4@gmail.com](mailto:bethbuss4@gmail.com)  
 Rob Hatton, Congregation Chairman..... 303-906-9395 / email: [roberthatton1@googlemail.com](mailto:roberthatton1@googlemail.com)

~~~~~

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

Acolyte..... Steve Rolan  
 Altar Guild..... Elsie Leiker & Sharon Milliken  
 Counters..... Rob Hatton & Marisa Showalter  
 Elder on Duty..... Tony Williams  
 Greeter..... Marlene Sjostrand  
 Lay Reader..... Warren Kettner  
 Organist / Music Director..... Beth Buss  
     Special Music: Christ Choristers & Handbells; Beth Buss, Director  
     Mackenzie Egan, Flute  
     Cameron Hatton, Narrator  
 Service Web Recorder..... Robert Showalter  
 Service Live Streaming..... Brian Albee  
 Ushers ..... \*\*Phil Vandre, \*Naomi Kettner, Cameron Hatton, Brad Meythaler

~~~~~

