
Worship & Holy Communion
Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 15, 2024 9:30 a.m.



Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

In God's Service

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jane Harris
Ministers:	All Baptized People of God
Music:	Joe Chodur
Reader:	Lori Angell
Ushers	Mike Rasmussen & Lori Angell

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have special prayer requests, you would like included in the Prayers of the Church, please write them on a purple slip from the table by the offering plate in the Narthex. The prayers will be brought forward during the Offertory.

Today we relight the first two candles of the Advent wreath. The candle of HOPE and the candle of PEACE. Now we light the third candle of Advent. This is the candle of JOY. As the coming of Jesus, our Savior, draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of his birth.

From the Book of Isaiah, we read the words of our Lord:

“But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.”—Isaiah 65:18

From the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Galatians:

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.”—Galatians 5:22-25

Let us pray:

We joyfully praise you, O Lord,

for the fulfillment of your promise of a Savior and what that means in our lives. Thank you for the gift of salvation through the birth of your son, Jesus. Create a joy-filled spirit in us as we wait and help us to see your glory as you fill our lives with your living Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

Amen.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✝ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

GATHERING HYMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW 843



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW 239

Vs 3



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, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

The assembly is seated.

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Holy Night

Pat Steinfort

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Rejoice, the LORD is in your midst

Isaiah 12:2-6

In your midst is the Holy
One of Israel.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice, the Lord is near

Luke 3:7-18

One more powerful is
coming, baptizing with fire

A reading from Zephaniah:

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Isaiah: (Please read responsively)

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³ With joy you will draw water

from the wells of salvation.

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name;

make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;

let this be known in all the earth.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

A reading from Philippians:

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Testify to Liberating Love

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

ELW 717



- 1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar-king wa - ter, pure,
- 2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans-ing, sure.
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans-lat - ed in - to deed.
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

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The assembly stands

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY*)

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

P: God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will.

C: Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news.

P: God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation.

C: Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters .

P: God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration.

C: Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age.

P: God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick.

C: Show your compassion and remember your people in love.

P: God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation.

C: **Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here.**

P: God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died.

C: **Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you.**

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost..*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

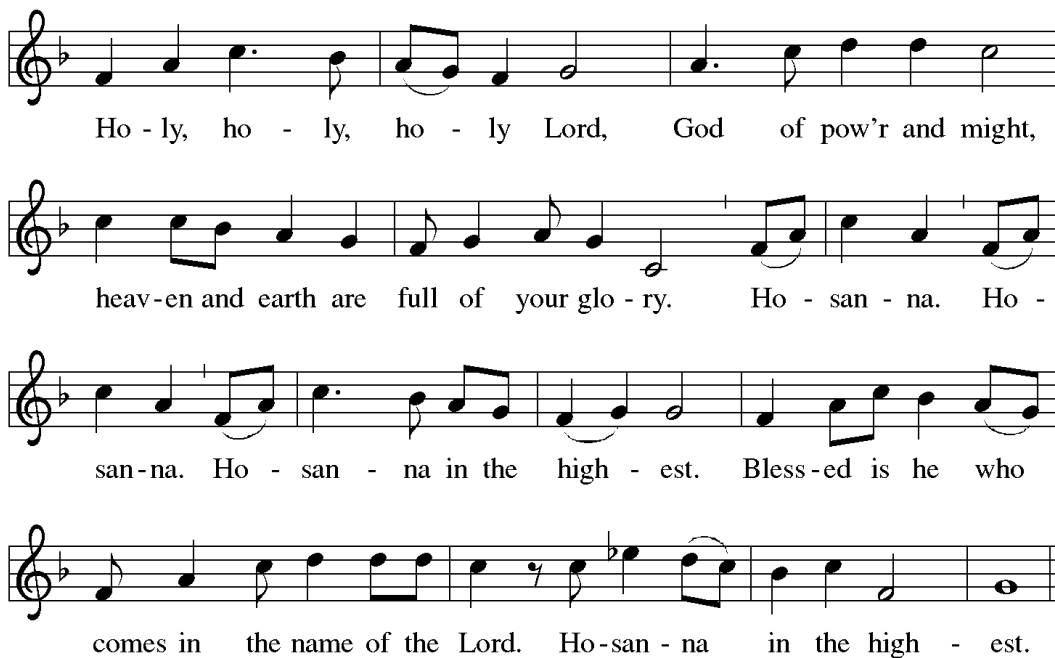
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Feel free to recite either translation of the Lord's Prayer at this time.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and
deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Each side will be ushered forward down the center aisle. Those on the pulpit side will kneel at the communion rail at the front and fill into the back. Those on the lector side will kneel at the communion rail at the back and fill in to the front. Pastor will distribute the elements from the pulpit front and around the back. Communion is continual. Return your cups to the trays by the pews.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.
(The assembly is seated)

COMMUNION MUSIC

Accompanist Choice

The assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. **We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.**

Amen.

BLESSING

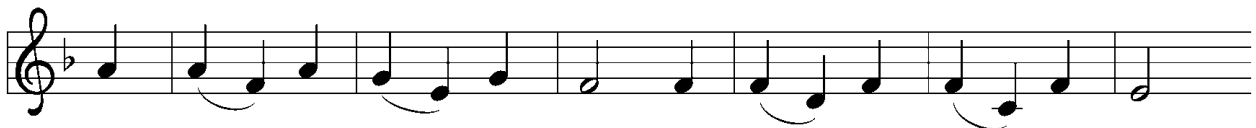
God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

ELW 656



- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
- 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
- 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
- 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

Calendar

This Week:

Sunday, Dec. 15	9:30 am Worship/Communion @ SP 10:30 am Fellowship 2:00 pm Confirmation Class SP
Monday, Dec. 16	9:00 am Quilting OS 9:30 am Quilting SP
Wednesday, Dec. 18	9:30 am M & M's SP 5:00 pm Ring His Praises Bell Choir Practice SP 6 pm Advent Service/Meal SP

Next Week:

Sunday, Dec. 22	9:30 am Worship/Communion @ OS 10:30 am Fellowship 2:00 pm 2/4 Stitchers SP
Monday, Dec. 23	No Quilting OS 9:30 am Quilters SP
Tuesday, Dec. 24	4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service OS
Wednesday, Dec. 25	Have a Blessed Christmas!

Announcements

A **huge thank you to all** who baked and worked at the bake sale last Saturday, it was a big success.

Cap and Mitten Tree will be in the Narthex at St Paul for everyone to help decorate with various hats and mittens that will be given to local schools for children in our community.

Join us throughout the Wednesdays in Advent for our **“Come to the Table”** Advent Series. We are doing something a little different this year! Our suppers and services will be intertwined! We will begin the meal at 6:00 pm with the breaking of bread (Lord’s Supper) and then throughout the next hour we will simply enjoy a time together of fellowship, some scripture, a brief message, and then conclude with a blessing and song. **There will be a Free Will Offering** at the Wednesday Advent Suppers. **On Wednesday, Dec. 18th**, proceeds will go to Boy Scout Troop No. 1012. The Boy Scouts will help serve the meal that night.

Poinsettias-Anyone wishing to donate poinsettias for December worship/Christmas Eve services at Our Saviour’s, please contact Nancy Nielsen 641-420-6562, to make arrangements for delivery to the church.

Ring His Praises Bell Choir, On Wednesday - Dec. 18 - all ringers who can play at church on Sunday, Dec. 29th, AS WELL AS the Christmas Eve chime ringers are needed at rehearsal. We'll have short rehearsals so that attendance at the Advent meals & services are possible. A great finish for a great year!!

St. Paul Deadline for 2024 donations will be Sunday, December 29th to count for your 2024 tax credit. Anything received after that date will be on the 2025 donations.

The fifth Sunday in December (29th), church service will be held at St. Paul.

Offering Envelopes for 2025 are available to pick up today in the Narthex at St Paul.

Oatmeal Drive for the Little Free Pantry. During the month of December, we are focusing on donations of oatmeal specifically the instant type, to help give a warm start to the day for our neighbors in need. We invite you to choose a number that has a special meaning to you (the number of children/grandchildren you have , your birth date , your years of marriage, years in remission from illness, anything that has a significant meaning to you) and donate that number of boxes. A display will be set up at Our Saviour's along with a card that you are welcome to fill out as to the meaning of the number you give. In January, we will use these cards in blessing your gifts of oatmeal. Let's stock the pantry with oatmeal this Winter. Thanks & Blessings!

Thrivent Action Grants-Attention Thrivent Members-If you still haven't used both of your Thrivent Actions Grants for 2024, we encourage you to apply now for a project in 2025. This could be used at Our Saviour's to purchase batting for the Quilts, for Cold Weather Supplies for the Free Pantry, or for another charity close to your heart. They could be used at St. Paul as well for their ongoing ministries. Contact Marilyn 641-425-9048 if you like help or guidance in applying. The application process has been updated and streamlined.

With the distribution of the new church directory, please be reminded that the church directory's names and contact information are solely for congregational use. We ask that you do not give out names and addresses to anyone requesting either the entire list of the

directory, **OR** an individual's name and contact information **without** receiving prior approval from the individual. Thank you!

Please be sure to sign **friendship registers** located at end of pews.

Reminder: the deadline for turning in announcements for the bulletin is Wednesday by 9 a.m.

If you feel drawn to kneel during the service, please feel free to lower the kneelers and use them.

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex for serving coffee hour and the Community Kitchen. **Please help where you can.**

Contact information for Pastor Jane: phone number is 641-242-0337 and her email address is janeharris2010@gmail.com if anyone in our church family wanted to contact her.

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