

8:30 AM

LEADER

**Sunday, December 14th, 2025
3rd Sunday of Advent, Year A**

PRELUDE

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High” Arr. by Charles Callahan

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Long-expected God,

We confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God’s own righteousness.

☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #260 The King Shall Come

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free. As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus.

ELW #240 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (vs. 3)

Let us pray: O ransomed people of the Lord,

Come, let us travel on God’s holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

8:30 AM

LEADER

APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S LESSON

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

RESPONSORIAL Psalm 146:5-10

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 102. *Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you,* who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matt. 11:10)*

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:2-11

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #239 Hark, the Glad Sound

APOSTLES' CREED: ELW p. 105

Let us profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' 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

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Turn their attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (continued)

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. (We pray especially for those whose names we offer up aloud or in the silence of our hearts. *(Pause for intercession)*) In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant (especially we pray for Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services). God of grace,
hear our prayer.

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith (especially Mary, mother of Jesus, John of the Cross and . . .). May their boldness of faith inspire our witness and work. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERTORY

"In the Bleak Midwinter" by Gustave Holst Arr. by Albin C. Whitworth

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

PREFACE DIALOGUE

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

ELW p. 108 (sung)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

ELW p. 109 (sung)

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

ELW p. 109 (sung)

Amen.

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.

8:30 AM

LEADER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 112

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW #487 What Feast of Love

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW #259 Fling Wide the Door

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" Arr. by Charles Callahan