

11:00 AM

LEADER

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

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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 SONG

SongSelect/Praise Charts "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" by Meredith Andrews

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)

O ransomed people of the Lord,

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

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 (or extemporize)

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

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mass of Renewal: Alleluia

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:2-11

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

SongSelect "God of Justice" by Tim Hughes

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

SongSelect "Do You Hear What I Hear" by Gloria Adele Shain

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.

11:00 AM

LEADER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION SONG

SongSelect "The Table" Chris Tomlin

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 SONG

SongSelect "Soon and Very Soon"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.