

December 13, 2020

The Third Sunday of Advent



Tune in to 98.5 FM

Messiah Lutheran Church

7740 Hwy 72 West, Madison, AL 35758
(256)721-0041 / www.mlutheran.org

SERVICE of WORD and PRAYER
from With One Voice

THE PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

HYMN: "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn" vs 1,3,4

633 Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing,
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing,
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing,
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

Chords: G, Am7, C, D, D7, G, Am7, C, D, G

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less

geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and

lives now in - side us for ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

THE GREETING & DIALOG

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.

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In the Word was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

SCRIPTURE SONG

Refrain



■ Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to



Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

□ Great and won - der - ful are your deeds, O God of the u - ni - verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul - er of all the na - tions.

Refrain



Who can fail to hon - or you, Lord, and sing the glo - ry of your name?

■ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One. All



na - tions will draw near and wor - ship be - fore you,

Refrain



for your just and ho - ly works have been re - vealed.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you once called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Grant us, your people, the wisdom to see your purpose today and the openness to hear your will, that we may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

³ Then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

⁴ **The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.**

⁵ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negev.

⁶ **Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.**

⁷ Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Word of Life”



THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord,""
as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

25

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joyce, re - joyce, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - frings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

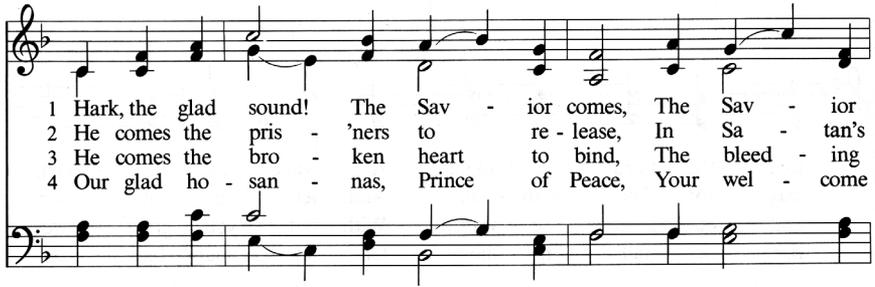
The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Go forth as he ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The bride - groom is at hand.
 In tri - umph cast be - fore him Their di - a - dems of gold.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free!

THE SERMON

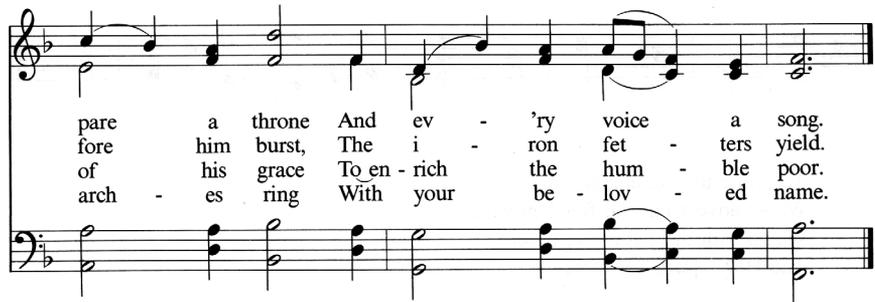
Hark, the Glad Sound!



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.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father,

He will come again 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**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

pray in the Holy Spirit.

Keep yourselves in the love of God;

look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

Everything old has passed away;

behold, everything has become new!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

(silence for reflection and self examination.)

Gracious God,

**Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and

serve you in newness of life,
To the honor and glory of your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, Agree with one another, live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY: "Glory to You, God" vs. 1



(Advent to Transfiguration) Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
(Lent to Pentecost) Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
(Season after Pentecost) Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

In the mystery of the Word made flesh, you embrace our lives with your great love for humanity. With joy and gladness we ask that these gifts may be for many a sign of that love, and that we may continue to share in your divine life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

As God's people called to love one another,
let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

God of mercy,

Hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Christ who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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**

THE BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen

34

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
 4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by your

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
 And open wide our heav'nly home;
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

THE DISMISSAL
 THE POSTLUDE