

WELCOME

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SAT. DECEMBER 13/SUN. DECEMBER 14, 2025



“REJOICE AT WHAT YOU SEE AND HEAR”

AS WE GATHER

It is certainly easy to complain. We all do it. We look around and see all those things that are not what we think they should be. We look in the mirror and we see what we lack. When John sent his disciples to Jesus, Jesus called them to rejoice in what is already present. Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, had come. He brings healing and salvation to all who will receive Him. Quite literally, these miracles are still happening all around us. Those wounded by affliction and despair find healing in Christ. The dead in trespasses and sins are raised up to life. The weak are made strong, the poor are made rich, and those with only a past are given an eternal future. What do you see and hear? Look at the world, and you will find only complaint and fear; but look to Jesus, and you will find peace that surpasses all understanding and joy without end.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “O Sing of Christ” *LSB 362*

HYPERLINK

<https://youtu.be/ruzWu2oE864?si=uhg17bpZX0iizto4&t=34>

1. O sing of Christ, whose birth made known

The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal word made flesh and bone
So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity
God's finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity,
The icon of His grace.

2.What Adam lost, none could reclaim,
And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came
To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right
God sent His only Son;
He came to us as life and light
And our redemption won.

3.He came to that which was His own,
But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God's glory shone,
And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be
The heirs of heav'n above,
Born not of human ancestry
But born of God in love.

4.Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell
Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel
To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became
One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name
For all eternity!

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**


Pastor: 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 ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

KYRIE



 Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

During the singing of the hymn, candles on the Advent wreath will be lit..

HYMN

“In Advent Hope”

Tune: LSB 442

**In Advent hope we gather And worship trustingly,
Assured that Christ is coming To set His people free.
Our Advent-hope hosannas Expectantly arise
To Jesus Christ, the Savior Who comes from Paradise.**

**With Advent hope our praises Re-echo joyfully
To greet our Lord’s arrival In His humility.
As Advent hope-filled people, We resolutely pray,
“Amen, O longed-for Savior! Come, Lord, with us to stay!”**

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SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. O blessed Lord, grant us watchful hearts to behold the mystery of Christ’s coming without doubt or fear as we

await the fullness of all that He promised, lest our hearts be deprived of joy and our anxieties steal away the peace He has planted in us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and to the end of the ages.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 35:1–10* (“*Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.*”)

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

EPISTLE *James 5:7–11* (“*Be patient . . . until the coming of the Lord.*”)

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

(LSB p. 205)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 11:2–15* (“*He who has ears to hear, let him hear.*”)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴ And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, “‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’”

¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴ and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵ He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”
LSB 345

HYPERLINK

<https://youtu.be/doYyZC1xWAE?si=ZH2Ht2k6ChV5jCHW&t=97>

**1.Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.
“Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!”**

**2.Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.**

**3.See, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav’n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv’n;**

**4.So, when next He comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.**

***5.Honor, glory, might, dominion
To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit
While eternal ages run!**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald

CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS “O Holy, Holy, Holy Lord”

TUNE: *LSB 357*

**O holy, holy, holy Lord,
The God by heav’nly hosts adored,
Both heav’n and earth Your glory show.
Hosanna sing we to the Lord.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

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THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples saying, *“Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”*

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, *“Drink ye all of it; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor: 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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI “O Christ, the Holy Lamb of God” TUNE: *LSB 357*

**O Christ, the holy Lamb of God,
Who takes away the whole world's sin,
Have mercy on us now, we pray,
And grant Your heav'nly peace within.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

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+DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION+

By communing, a person says publicly that they -

- are baptized and confirmed***
- believe Christ's words***
- repent of their sins***
- fully agree with all that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod teaches.***

How to receive –

- anyone may come to the altar but keep hands folded if not receiving Communion***
- the center of the tray has a cup with just a drop of wine for those who must minimize alcohol***
- smile, exude your joy, but keep a reverent demeanor as others commune***

DISTRIBUTION HYMN “Who Is He In Yonder Stall”

https://youtu.be/grhf0MMA_i0?si=R_8t2wqml0PJyxMT

**1 Who is he in yonder stall,
at whose feet the shepherds fall?
Who is he in deep distress,
fasting in the wilderness?**

Refrain:

**'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord, the King of glory!
At his feet we humbly fall,
crown him, crown him, Lord of all!**

**2 Who is he the people bless
for his words of gentleness?
Who is he to whom they bring
all the sick and sorrowing? [Refrain]**

**3 Who is he that stands and weeps
at the grave where Lazarus sleeps?
Who is he the gath'ring throng
greet with loud triumphant song? [Refrain]**

**4 Lo! at midnight, who is he
prays in dark Gethsemane?
Who is he upon the tree
dies in grief and agony? [Refrain]**

**5 Who is he that from the grave
comes to heal and help and save?
Who is he that from his throne
rules thro' all the world alone? [Refrain]**

Author: B.R. Hanby

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POST-COMMUNION HYMN

“Lord, Let Your Servant Go in Peace”

TUNE: *LSB 357*

**Lord, let Your servant go in peace,
Your Word fulfilled within my sight.
Salvation comes for all to see.
For Israel, glory; Gentiles, light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**All glory to the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, with them one,
As was in the beginning, now,
And as the endless ages run.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: Almighty God, heavenly Father, grant to Your people patience for the days of waiting, knowing that You are at work bringing to completion all that You began in us in our Baptism. Keep us from the torment of doubt, from the prison of fear, and from the wandering of a soul ungrounded in Your Word and favor, and bring us at last to heavenly joy in Your presence forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with the Father and the Spirit

People: Amen.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

CLOSING HYMN “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”
LSB 348

https://youtu.be/TCcWIIMmAX8?si=-nisS0eCSPaFp_Lh

**3.Oh, brighter than the
rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lone-some place of death**

Despite the rage of foes.

**4. Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ
in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.**

**5. The King shall come when
morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord!
Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE (Sat.): “We Wish You A Merry Christmas”
(Skyler Zever, Great-granddaughter of Al & Evie Benedeck)

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:
**“Dedicated to knowing Christ and making Christ
known to others”**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.
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- **Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald
- **Liturgist (Sun.):** Rev. Maurice Lind, Pastor Emeritus
- **Sat. Organist:** Lina Schaal
- **Sun. Organist:** George Kelm
- **Choir Director:** Gail Feick

- **A/V Team: Brian & Amanda Larie,
 Stan & Cheryl Grey, Dawn Oswald**
- **Please call (757-831-6948) or e-mail Pastor Oswald
 (oswald1@charter.net) with your prayer requests.**
- **Kindly turn off your cellphone prior to Divine Worship.**
- **Please join us for our final Advent Worship and Supper
 this Wednesday.**

- **Our Christmas Eve Worship will be on Wednesday,
 December 24, at 6:00pm. Christmas Day will be at 10:00am
 Thursday, December 25.**

- **On behalf of our Women of Hope, we thank all that helped
 with our Bake Sale at Trees on Parade, supported us
 through donations of baked goods, crafts, and Safe Families
 for Children recipients of our donations post sale.
 Thank you to our bakers, crafters, Gail for her dog treats,
 packers, sellers, set up and take down. For our tree
 committee, a special thank you for making our Christmas
 tree come alive: Trina, Mary Beth, Kim, Deb, Cathy, Sue,
 and Beth.**

- **A very special thank you to our Sunday School students,
 staff and moms that helped them make their ornaments for
 our tree. Our theme was “Christmas Around the World”.
 Proceeds from our craft/bake sale will go to Safe Families
 for Children. They will be adding an area West of the I next
 year where our proceeds will go. The program is a
 movement of families supporting children and parents in
 their community. They are faith motivated and family
 focused. For more information or to volunteer please
 contact Beth Schneider 262-351-6578.**

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY

Reader: Paul Trettin
Communion: Peter Voigt
Ushers: Dave Peschke & Gary Schaetten
Fellowship: Beth Schneider
Altar Guild: Peter & Tami Voigt

NEXT WEEK

Reader: Gail Feick
Communion: Peter Voigt
Ushers: Brian Larie & Kyle Wachholder
Fellowship: Rita Estes
Altar Guild: Peter & Tami Voigt

BIRTHDAYS

12/14 Trina Metz
12/14 Bailey Tueting
12/15 Tara Jones
12/18 Amy McNulty
12/19 Pauline Anderson

Calendar of Events This Week

12/15/25 – 12/21/25

Monday: 11:00am Twin Lakes Seniors
Wednesday: 6:00pm Advent Supper
7:00pm Advent Worship
Thursday: 8:00am Men's Breakfast
6:00pm AA Meeting
Saturday: 9:30am Worship Service

Sunday: 8:15am Choir Rehearsal

9:00am	Worship Service
10:20am	Bible Study & Children's Sunday School
7:00pm	AA Meeting