

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2025

Divine Service, Setting Three

Word of Welcome

Prelude

Hymn #357: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Confession of Sins

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

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

Absolution

[John 20:19-23]

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 19:1, 4-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a

L: Shower, O heavens, from above,

C: **and let the clouds rain down righteousness;**

L: let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;

C: **let the earth cause them both to sprout.**

L: The heavens declare the glory of God,

C: **and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.**

L: Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

C: **In them He has set a tent for the sun,**

L: which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

C: **and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.**

L: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,

C: **and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

L: Shower, O heavens, from above,
C: **and let the clouds rain down righteousness;**
L: let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;
C: **let the earth cause them both to sprout.**

Gloria Patri (sung)

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Kyrie (sung)

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

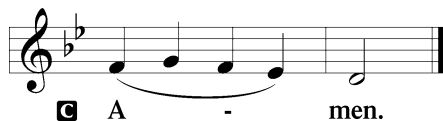
Salutation and Collect of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.



L: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Old Testament: Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (ESV)

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to My words that he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.'"

L: This is the Word of the LORD.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7 (ESV)

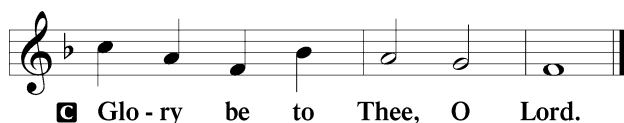
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: John 1:19-28 (ESV)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who

are you? We need to give an answer to 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, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even He who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Statement of Faith: Nicene Creed

Hymn #344: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Sermon

Offertory (sung)

Psalm 51:10-12

Offering from God's People

Stewardship Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, everything we have and are truly belongs to You. Our talents, our treasures, and the time to use them, are resources You have given us to do Your work until You return. Grant that we may be faithful managers of all that You have entrusted to us, that Your name may be glorified among us and that we may receive You with joy on the day when You come again in glory. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer (10:45)

(10:45) The service will conclude with the Benediction.

(8:00) The service continues with the Service of the Sacrament.

Preface (sung)

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: **It is meet and right so to do.**

Proper Preface

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus (sung)

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

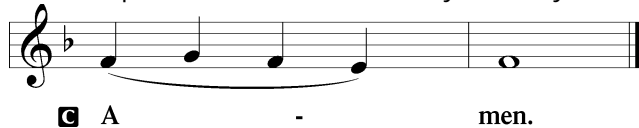
Matthew 6:9-13

Words of Institution

Pax Domini

John 20:19

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



Agnus Dei (sung)

John 1:29

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

1. #628: Your Table I Approach
2. #567: Not What These Hands Have Done
2. #803: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Nunc Dimittis (please stand to sing)

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

Psalms 107:1

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

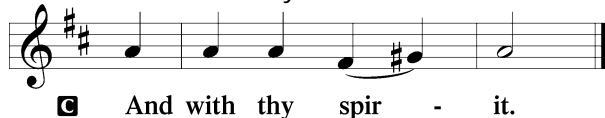


Dismissal & Post-Communion Prayer

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

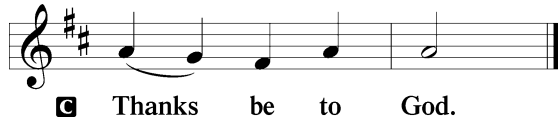
P: The Lord be with you.



Benedicamus

Psalms 103:1

P: Bless we the Lord.



Benediction (sung)

Numbers 6:24-26

Hymn #343: Prepare the Royal Highway

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew D. Priem | Reader: Darren Hall | Musician: Jordan Fox

Acknowledgments: Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel readings: THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Portions of the service were created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.