

Third Sunday in Advent

December 14th, 2025

"We are rooted in God's love, united in connecting people to Jesus"

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME and INVOCATION

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

P: Advent is a time for the human heart to wait, while trusting God's timing.

C: We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.

P: In Him our hearts rejoice,

C: for we trust in His holy name.

P: May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord,

C: even as we put our hope in You. (Psalm 33.20-22)

P: We now light the first three Advent candles – the Hope, Peace, and now the Joy candle.



Third Sunday of Advent

After the candles are lighted, we speak together:

C: Jesus, You are the world's hope and answer to the brokenness of this world! We place our hope and trust in You! Amen!

OPENING HYMN: "Joy to the World" (387)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near to God in faith and repentance,

C: Heavenly Father, I confess all my sins to You, the sins that I know of and I acknowledge that there are others that are unknown to me. Your Word teaches that I will be held accountable for my sins. But, Your Word also teaches me about Jesus and that He is the Savior of the world. Lord, I ask that You forgive me of my sins, that my sins not stay with me. "God, have mercy on me, a sinner" (Luke 18.13b).

P: Friends of God, heaven rejoices when we acknowledge our sins for God desires to shower His mercy and love upon us. Know, therefore, that your sins, your known and unknown sins, are removed from you as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103.12). The words I speak, I now speak for God: You are forgiven of your sins! They are no longer with you!

C: Amen! Thanks be to God!

ADVENT LITANY PRAYER

P: O Christ,

C: In Your first Advent You fulfilled Your promise to come to Your people.

P: O Christ,

C: You came to save us from our sin. (Matthew 1.21)

P: O Christ,

C: You have promised to return and to liberate all of creation from the bondage to decay. (Romans 8.21)

P: O Christ,

C: We look forward to that day when You return!

P: O Christ,

C: May we not become weary as we wait for You!

P: O Christ,

C: May we be watchful and ready for Your return.

P: O Christ,

C: Come, Lord Jesus, come! Amen!

ADVENT HYMN OF PRAYER: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (357, vs. 1-5)

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray together:

C: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Today's Old Testament reading is **Isaiah 35.1-10**. In our Old Testament reading, the prophet Isaiah gives a vision of God's coming renewal, when the desert will bloom and His redeemed people will return with everlasting joy.

The Gospel reading is **Matthew 11.2-15**. In our Gospel reading, John the Baptist, imprisoned and uncertain, sends word to Jesus, who reveals that He is the promised One bringing sight to the blind and good news to the poor.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

L: These are the Words of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

WE CONFESS OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH The Nicene Creed (Screens)

SERMON HYMN: “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” (803)

SERMON: Isaiah 35.1-10

THE OFFERTORY and THANKOFFERING

PRAYER & THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Congregational response to each petition is: “**Hear our prayer**”*

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should . . . evermore
praising You and singing:

SANCTUS (p. 161)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & DISTRUBTION HYMNS:

“Just As I Am” (570, Screens), “Beautiful Savior” (537, Screens)

“Let Us Break Bread Together” (Screens)

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AFFIRMATION OF HOPE

P: To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, in
Your holy Church forever and ever. Amen!

**C (Loudly): CHRIST HAS COME! CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST SHALL
COME AGAIN!**

THE BENEDICTION

C: Amen!

CLOSING HYMN: “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” (805)

Pastor: We have gathered this morning to worship the Lord, to be renewed and strengthened in God’s love and the forgiveness of sins. As we go, let us remember who we are and what we do:

C: “We are rooted in God’s love, united in connecting people to Jesus.”

Pastor: You are dearly loved and treasured by God, planted and growing in God’s love. As God’s beloved children, go in peace! Love one another! Be a blessing! Share the faith! Serve the Lord with gladness!

C: Thanks be to God!

Service Acknowledgments

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