

**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**December 13, 2020 10:30 a.m. Service**

*He himself  
was not the light,*



*but he came to  
testify to the light.*  
*John 1:8*

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
***'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL.'***



## ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

**'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'**

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You are invited to use the yellow Prayer Cards located in the pew for prayer requests. Please hand this card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

*\* Please turn off cellphones\**

## THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Divine Service – Setting Three

December 13, 2020 10:30 a.m.

### *Welcome & Announcements*

+ INVOCATION +

*LSB 184*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** We begin in the name into which we are baptized; In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**C** Amen.

## Lighting of the Third Candle

**P** As we prepare to light the third candle of our Advent wreath, known as the shepherds' candle,

**C** we are reminded of the joy that the shepherds experienced as they worshipped the Christ Child.

**P** Our Advent candle for this week is the color of pink.

**C** It represents the spirit of rejoicing that fills our hearts in the midst of our Advent preparations.

**P** Once again we pray:

**C** Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts, into our church, and into our world. Amen.

*Opening Hymn*

*LSB 398 sts. 1-2, 4-5*

*(to the tune of LSB 515)*

*“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”*



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, Great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
2 He comes with res - cue speed - y To those who suf - fer wrong,  
4 Kings shall fall down be - fore Him And gold and in - cense bring;  
5 O'er ev' - ry foe vic - tor - ious, He on His throne shall rest,



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, His reign on earth be - gun!  
To help the poor and need - y And bid the weak be strong;  
All na - tions shall a - dore Him, His praise all peo - ple sing.  
From age to age more glor - ious, All bles - sing and all - blest.



He comes to break op - press - sion, To set the cap - tive free,  
To give them songs for sigh - ing, Their dark - ness turn to light,  
To Him shall prayer un - ceas - ing And dai - ly vows as - cend;  
The tide of time shall ne - ver His co - ve - nant re - move;



To take a - way trans - gress - sion And rule in eq - ui - ty.  
Whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, Were pre - cious in His sight.  
His king - dom still in - crease - ing, A king - dom with - out end.  
His name shall stand for - ev - er— That name to us is Love.

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*Stand*

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION + *LSB 184*

**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. *Hebrews 10:22*

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

**C** **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*

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

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

*Psalm 32:5*

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination in light of the Ten Commandments.)*

**P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your**

**grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**P** God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith. *LSB 292*

**C** Amen.

**P** Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness? *LSB 293*

**C** Yes.

**P** Let it be done for you as you believe.

**P** Upon this your confession, *LSB 185*

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. *John 20:19-23*

**C** Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD + *LSB 186*

**Introit** *Ps. 85:8-9, 12-13 antiphon: Ps. 85:7*

**P** Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

**C** Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

**P** Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

**C** Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

**P** Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

**P C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**P** Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

## Gloria Patri

*LSB 186*



**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

## Kyrie

*Mark 10:47, LSB 186*



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

(During Advent, the HYMN OF PRAISE is omitted) *LSB 187*

## Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 189*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray. 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.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

**Old Testament Reading**      *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

61 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion

— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

8 “For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing.

In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples.

All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed.”

10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign

LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual** *Zech. 9:9, Ps. 118:26, alt.*

**A C** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your king is coming to you; Righteous and having salvation. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

**Epistle Reading** *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil.

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Special Music*                      *“Miracle Hymn”*                      *On Screen*  
*(requested)*

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse**    *Rev. 22:17*

**P** Alleluia.

**P C** Behold, I send my messenger  
before your face, who will prepare  
your way before you. Alleluia.

**Holy Gospel**    *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St.  
John, the first chapter.



■ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

*LSB 190*

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

19 Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. 20 He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

21 They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

22 Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, “I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’”

24 Now the Pharisees who had been sent

25 questioned him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

26 “I baptize with water,” John replied, “but among you stands one you do not know. 27 He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.”

28 This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*LSB 191*

*Sit*

*Hymn of the Day*

*LSB 345 sts. 1-5*

*“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”*



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is  
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the the  
△5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the  
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”  
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

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**Sermon**

**“Circumstances”  
Pastor Tom Rhodes**

*Stand*

**Together We Confess our Common Faith**  
**Using the Apostle's Creed** *LSB 192*

**☐** **☐** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the  
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,**



**the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

## **Offering**

*In quiet devotion and responding in personal stewardship of God's abundant provision to you, please use the offering plates in the back as you enter or exit. This is just as it says: An offering to God through His church. As a reassurance to those in worship today, especially our guests - this is not an obligation - the good news of Jesus is free to all!*

## **Stewardship Prayer**

**☐ ☑** In gratitude of receiving the Lord's gifts and blessings, for guiding us to generously share with those in need His blessings and the resources we've been given, and for the tithes and offerings to support the work of the Kingdom in this place, we give thanks and praise to God. In Jesus' name, Amen.

# Offertory

LSB 192



**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

# Prayer of the Church

LSB 193

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

*Brief silence*

**P** For the Church on earth, that her members would rejoice always in their salvation in all circumstances, pray without ceasing and bear witness about the light of the world that is Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those that God has appointed to civic leadership, that they would protect life, govern wisely, administer justice fairly, and not abuse the authority that has been granted them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who are hungry, homeless, unemployed or find themselves in any circumstance of need, that they find food, shelter and employment and join in giving thanks to God as the giver of daily bread, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who are ill, those recovering, those who are homebound who cannot be with us, and those on our prayer list and cards, that they find comfort, patience, and healing according to God's good will along with the sure knowledge that Jesus will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who mourn, that they find comfort in the promise of the resurrection from the dead and the hope of reunion with those they love who have died in the faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13, LSB 196*

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **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.**

## Salutation and Benedicamus

*LSB 201*

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Bless we the Lord.

*Psalm 103:1*

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

*Numbers 6:24-26, LSB 202*

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

Closing Hymn

LSB 352 sts. 1, 4-6

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send  
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head  
That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith,  
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again  
As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face,  
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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