



# The Third Sunday In Advent

December 13, 2020

Christ Alone Lutheran Church, Ione, Oregon  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hermiston, Oregon

**Hymn #331 vv. 1-5** "The Advent of our King"

The advent of our King  
Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing  
In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son  
Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant's form puts on  
To set His servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise  
To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise  
The peace He comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light,  
He soon will come again  
And His true members all unite  
With Him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

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## Lighting the Advent Wreath

**Family:** This week we follow the path from terror to glory trod by the shepherds of Bethlehem

**C: For they heard a message that sounded too good to be true –**

**Family:** . . . a message too good to be true, but a message they believed.

**Family:** They followed the angels' instructions and went to see the Savior in the manger

**Family:** But they didn't stop there! They then told EVERYONE they saw exactly what they had seen and heard!

**C: Today we light The Shepherds' Candle**

**Family:** Saint Luke wrote: “When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby, Who was lying in the manger. When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.”

**P:** Let us pray . . . Father, You sent Your holy angels unto shepherds to declare the birth of Jesus. Thank You for sending us Your Holy Spirit so that we too may believe a story that sounds too good to be true; and help us to tell EVERYONE we see what we have heard and seen . . . in Jesus’ name.

**C: Amen.**

***The third candle is lit as the Congregation sings***

O come, Thou 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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text & Music: Public domain

**P:** Lord, may the light of this third candle, as it dispels the darkness around it, help to remind us that You have dispelled the darkness of death and sin in the world and in our lives and declared us to be the light of the world.

**C: Help us we pray to be Your faithful light to the lost. In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

**Hymn #331 v. 6** “The Advent of our King”

△ All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

Text: Public domain

**Opening Versicles**

**L:** O Lord, open my lips,

**C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

**L:** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C: make haste to help me, O Lord,**

**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.**

**Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion — to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

<sup>4</sup>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 . . . .

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. <sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

recited by all

recited by all

Zechariah 9:9 & Psalm 118:26

**Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.**

**Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

**Behold, your king is coming to you;**

**righteous and having salvation.**

**Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

## Epistle Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Lesson

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

**C:** Glory to You, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light . . . .

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>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?" <sup>23</sup>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."

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**L:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C:** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Hymn #345 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" sung to the tune of: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

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!"

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

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;

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.

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

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Sermon

Offering

Apostles' Creed

**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.**

**Hymn #349** "Hark, the Glad Sound"

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With Thy belovèd name.

Text: Public domain

**Kyrie**

L: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

L: O Christ,

C: have mercy.

L: O Lord,

C: have mercy.

**Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Versicles**

L: Hear my prayer, O Lord;

C: let my cry come to You.

L: In the day of my trouble I call upon You;

C: for You answer me.

L: Hide Your face from my sins,

C: and blot out all my iniquities.

L: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**C: and renew a right spirit within me.**

L: Cast me not away from Your presence,

**C: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

L: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

**C: and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

L: Because Your steadfast love is better than life,

**C: my lips will praise You.**

L: For You have been my help,

**C: and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.**

L: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;

**C: unite my heart to fear Your name.**

L: I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,

**C: and I will glorify Your name forever.**

L: May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.

**C: May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"**

L: Save Your people and bless Your heritage!

**C: Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**

L: . . . *Congregational prayers are offered here* . . . Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;

**C: listen to my plea for grace.**

## Collects

P: 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.**

**All: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

## Benedicamus and Blessing

L: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

L: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn #370 "What Child is This?"

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
The babe, the son of Mary!

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## Scripture for November

John 1:9 ESV

*The true light, which gives light to everyone,  
was coming into the world.*