

ORDER OF WORSHIP: MORNING PRAISE

[Based on pp. 109–119 in the black
hymnal— the Evangelical Lutheran
Hymnary (ELH)]

Call to Worship • Advent 3

[Philippians 4:4–5 (EHV)]

☒ASTOR: *Today we pray for God to come to us, His Church, just as He came in the past and will come again at the end. Even though we still live in a world of sin and sorrows, may we follow His invitation to rejoice in all things because we know He is our Savior and we are His people through Baptism.*

“Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice!”

☒ONGREGATION: **Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.”**

Hymn • “Hark the Glad Sound the Savior Comes”

[ELH 109]

- 1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne
And ev’ry voice a song.**
- 2. He comes the pris’ners to release,
In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.**
- 3. He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.**
- 4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.**

-Stand-

Confession of Sin and Declaration of Forgiveness

☞ *Let us confess our sin to God and pray.*

☞ **Almighty God, heavenly Father: I have sinned against You through my own fault, in thought, word, and deed. For the sake of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, forgive me all my sin, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

☞ *Lift up your hearts! For the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, God has had mercy on you, forgiven you all your sin, and He will bring those who believe in Him to everlasting life at the end.*

Peace † be with you.

Prayers from the Psalms

[Ps 51:15, Ps 70:1]

☞ *Let us pray to the Lord, using His Word to ask for His blessings.*

O Lord, we pray to You because You have purged away our sin by Your holy life, innocent death, and victorious resurrection. You alone have given us this new song of praise, and we ask You to strengthen us to sing it every day of our lives:

☞ **“O LORD, open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise.”**

☞ *Gracious Father, as You have been our help in times past, we pray that You continue to stay with us in this life. Hear our prayers, and always give us Your loving answers.*

☞ **“Hurry, God! Rescue Me! Lord, hurry to help me!”**

☞ *We pray this confident that You will hear and answer us, because You are the one, true and living God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

☞ **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 forevermore. Amen.**

Song of Praise • “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

[ELH 128]

1. **Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.**

**2. Sin and death may well be groaning,
Satan now may well be moaning;
We, our full salvation owning,
Cast our ev'ry care away.**

**7. O the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing
And to Thee we come confessing
That our freedom Thou hast wrought.**

Prayer of the Day • Advent 3

☞ *Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come to help us with Your great might. We thank You that You have given us a glorious Baptism like that of John the Baptist, and that You have promised us the forgiveness of sins through it. Preserve us in this faith until our end.*

☛ **We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our living Lord, who reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.**

-Be seated-

First Lesson • Zephaniah 3:14–17



We can rejoice and sing and be glad in every earthly circumstance because despite all our earthly troubles, God has heroically taken our sins away.

Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. ¹⁵The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the Lord, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. ¹⁶In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. ¹⁷The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing."(EHV)

☞ *This is the Word of our Lord.*

☛ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm of the Day • Advent 3*[Philippians 4:4–5, Psalm 85:1–2, 8a (EHV)]*

P *Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice!*

G **Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.**

P *You showed favor to your land, O LORD.*

G **You restored Jacob.**

P *You removed the guilt of your people.*

G **You covered all their sin.**

P *I will hear what the true God, the LORD, will say.*

G **He indeed speaks peace to his people, to his favored ones.**

Second Lesson • Philippians 4:4–7

Because of our Lord's gracious advent (coming), we can rejoice in all situations in our life.

Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (EHV)

P *This is the Word of our Lord.*

G **Thanks be to God.**

-Stand-

Gospel Acclamation • John 17:17 (EHV)*[tune: ELH 153]*

G **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Faith comes from hearing You—

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Through Your Word which is true. Through Your Word which is true!

Gospel • John 1:19–28



John the Baptizer describes his own ministry and shows that messengers of God's kingdom always point to Jesus.

This is the testimony John gave when the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him, “Who are you?”

²⁰He confessed and did not deny. He confessed, “I am not the Christ.”

²¹And they asked him, “Who are you then? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?”

“No,” he answered.

²²Then they asked him, “Who are you? Tell us so we can give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ just as Isaiah the prophet said.” (*Isaiah 40:3*)

²⁴They had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵So they asked John, “Why then do you baptize, if you are not the Christ, or Elijah, or the Prophet?”

²⁶“I baptize with water,” John answered. “Among you stands one you do not know.

²⁷He is the one coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

²⁸These things happened in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. (EHV)

📖 *This is the Gospel of our Lord.*

🙏 **Thanks be to God.**

-Be seated-

Hymn • “On Jordan's Banks, the Herald's Cry”

[CW 16, alt.]

**1. On Jordan's bank the herald's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings.**

2. Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin,
And furnished for a Guest within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.
4. Stretch forth Your hand, our health restore,
And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make Your face on us to shine
And fill the world with love divine.
5. All praise to You, eternal Son,
Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Sermon • *Zephaniah 3:14–17*

Let's Rejoice Today!

-Stand-

Apostles' Creed

☐ *Having heard the Word of God, we confess our holy faith using the words of the 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there He shall 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.

-Be seated-

Bringing of Offerings ~ We offer our treasures to Christ for the work of His Kingdom

Offering Prayer

Prayer of the Church for Advent

[CW p 123, alt.]

- ☐ *Eternal Father, throughout the centuries You repeated and affirmed Your promise to send the Offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through Your prophets of old, You continually directed the eyes of Your people to the advent of their Savior.*
- ☑ **We praise You, O Lord, for keeping Your promise and sending Your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**
- ☐ *As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use Your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.*
- ☑ **Move us to take to heart the words of John the Baptizer: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**
- ☐ *You sent Your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.*
- ☑ **Fill our lives with the message of Your peace and the music of Your grace.**
- ☐ *Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see Your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.*
- ☑ **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**
- ☐ *[Special petitions are prayed here, concluding with]... We bring these requests before Your throne of mercy.*

☑ **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- ☐ *Hear us, Lord, as we bring You our private petitions:*
- Silence for personal prayer-*
- ☐ *Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in Your grace, in Your power, and in Your glory.*
- ☑ **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

Hymn • 107, *“When All the World was Cursed”***1. When all the world was cursed**

**By Moses’ condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came
With words of consolation.
With true forerunner’s zeal
The Greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown,
As Savior he proclaimed.**

**2. Before he yet was born,
He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord
Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan’s rolling stream,
A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him
Of whom the prophets told:****3. Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world’s transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The enemy’s oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win.**

Prayer for God's Continued Mercy ~ Kyrie Eleison

[Mk 10:47]

☐ *Let us pray to the Lord:*

We thank You, loving Father, that You have created us and still preserve us. Your greatest act of mercy was in giving Your only-begotten Son to be our substitute, so that we may not die, but live with You forever. For this we pray to You, Lord God the Father:



☐ **Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.**

☐ *We thank You, O Christ, that You carried all our sins on Your sacred shoulders, and by Your blood have blotted away all our transgressions. Now You rule all things in heaven and earth for the good of Your Church. For this we pray to You, Lord Jesus Christ:*



☐ **Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.**

☐ *We thank You, gracious Comforter, that You have given us Your holy Word and blessed Sacraments. Through them You have created true faith in our hearts, that we know of nothing to trust for our salvation except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. For this we pray to You, Lord the Holy Spirit:*

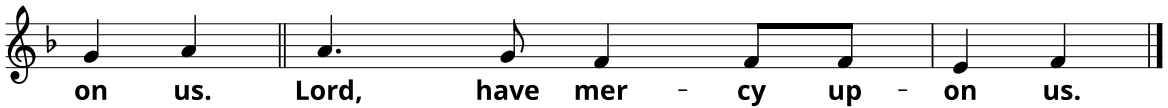


☐ **Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.**

☐ *O Triune God, grant us Your grace so that we perfectly believe that all our sins are forgiven for the sake of the passion and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Enlighten us by Your Holy Spirit so that, empowered by our Redeemer's death, we may turn away from sin every day, and never forsake Him until we see Him face to face in life eternal. For this we pray to You, O Holy Trinity:*



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



Lord's Prayer

[Mt 6:9-13]

P *Hear us as we pray, O Lord:*

A **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.**

Prayer ~ Collect

[ELH p 118]

P *Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day. Preserve us with Your mighty power so that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity. In all we do, direct us to live as Your dear children, showing Your righteousness in all we do.*

G **We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Final Blessing ~ Apostolic Blessing

[ELH p 119; 2 Cor 13:14]

P *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ...be with you all.*

G **Amen.**

Hymn • “As Angels Joyed with One Accord”

[CW 5]

1. As angels joyed with one accord
Upon the advent of our Lord,
So laud we all and bless the name
Of Him who from the Father came.
2. He came, not clothed in majesty
Nor pow'r that suits His deity.
In lowly state He walked till He
In dying set us captives free.

- 3. Lift up your heads! All grief and pain
Shall vanish when He comes again.
Where we shall see Him face to face,
There joy alone shall have a place.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS