

THE DIVINE SERVICE: RITE THREE

[based on pp. 88–106 in the black
hymnal—the Evangelical Lutheran
Hymnary (ELH)]

Call to Worship • Advent 2

[Isaiah 62:11b, Isaiah 30:30a, 29b (EHV)]

PASTOR: *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. Though this world offers many temptations to sin and doubt, may we always be comforted by God's Word which clearly points us to our loving Savior.*

“Daughter of Zion, Look, your salvation is coming.

CONGREGATION: **The Lord will cause the majestic splendor of his voice to be heard. You will have glad hearts.”**

Hymn • “Hark, A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”

[ELH 96]

- 1. Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding!**
“Christ is nigh!” we hear it say.
“Cast away the works of darkness;
O ye children of the day!”
- 3. Lo, 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.
- 5. Honor, glory, might, dominion**
To the Father and the Son
With the everlasting Spirit
While eternal ages run!

Confession of Sins

P *In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.*

C **Amen.**

P *Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;*

C **His mercy endures forever.**

P *Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name.*

C **Amen.**

P *Let us confess our sins:*

A **LL** **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of the World:**

We confess that we have sinned against Your divine majesty by thought, word and deed, provoking Your wrath against us.

We earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for our sins. We grieve to think of them. Their burden is intolerable.

Have mercy upon us, gracious Father! Forgive us our sins for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we may serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer for Mercy ~ Kyrie Eleison

[Mark 10:47]

P *O God the Father in heaven:*

C **Have mercy upon us.**

P *O God the Son, Redeemer of the world:*

C **Have mercy upon us.**

P *O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter:*

C **Have mercy upon us.**

Forgiveness of Sin ~ Absolution

☞ *Lift up your hearts. The Lord God, according to His promise, is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. By the command of Christ and the authority of my holy office I forgive your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

PART 2: THE SERVICE OF THE WORD



After receiving the forgiveness of sins, we thank God by singing His praises and praying to Him. He then increases our faith through His holy Word which we hear through the *Lessons* and the *Psalms*, and especially through the *Sermon* where God's Word is applied to our lives today.

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 2

☞ *Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for Your only-begotten Son. As You sent Your Son into the world to destroy the works of the devil, we pray that You would relieve us of our doubts and help us avoid the sins we are naturally inclined to do. May Your Word be taught correctly*

by Your ministers today so that all who hear may find Christ's true comfort in the challenges of this life.

☞ 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-

Lesson • Isaiah 40:1–8



Isaiah prophesied that Jesus wouldn't just come to bring His righteous judgment, but also to bring His gracious comfort.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her.

Her warfare really is over.

Her guilt is fully paid for.

Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice is calling out:

In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD.

In the wasteland make a level highway for our God.

⁴Every valley will be raised up,
and every mountain and hill will be made low.

The rugged ground will become level,
and the rough places will become a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all flesh together will see it.

Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

⁶A voice was saying, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry out?"

All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside.

⁷ Grass withers, flowers fade,
when the breath of the LORD blows on them.

Yes, the people are grass.

⁸ Grass withers, flowers fade,
but the Word of our God endures forever. (EHV)

☐ *This is the Word of our Lord.*

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

-Stand-

Gospel Acclamation • Psalm 121:1–2

☐ *Alleluia! Alleluia! I lift up my eyes to the mountains. Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

☑ **Alleluia!**

Gospel • Matthew 11:2–10



Jesus says John the Baptist was one prophesied to be the forerunner of the Christ. Because John the Baptist is the promised forerunner, that means Jesus Himself is the promised Messiah.

While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples ³to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

⁴Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. ⁶Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

⁷As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’” (*Malachi 3:1*) (EHV)

☐ *This is the Gospel of our Lord.*

☑ **God be praised for His glad tidings!**

-Be seated-

Hymn • *“Comfort, Comfort, Ye, My People”*

[ELH 102]

1. **“Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace,” thus says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning ‘neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.”**

3. **Hark the herald’s voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.**

4. **Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o’er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.**

Sermon • *Isaiah 40:1–8***Jesus is Comfortable**

1. He Shows Us Our Sin
2. He Prepares Our Hearts
3. He Strengthens Us Through Faith

-Stand-

Confession of Faith ~ Nicene Creed

☒ *Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:*

☒ **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And is seated at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Reception of Offerings and Prayer

Special Prayers

PART 3: THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION



Following Christ's command, we receive His grace to us in the special meal He instituted for the forgiveness of our sins. Here, He feeds us with His true body and His true blood in, with, and under the bread and wine. This is the same body which was born of the Virgin Mary, and the same blood which dripped down the wooden cross. This part of the liturgy is one of the oldest parts, dating back to at least the third century AD.



FOR OUR GUESTS: Please note that Trinity practices “Close Communion” (or “Membership Communion”). This means we only Commune with people who believe and teach the same doctrine which we do (ELS or WELS). This is necessary because Christ commands us to be unified as a congregation (Ephesians 4:3; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17). He warns that—much like abusing a powerful medicine—those who improperly receive Holy Communion receive Divine judgment rather than blessing (1 Corinthians 11:27, 29). And, contrary to the way many congregations practice today, “Close Communion” is the ancient practice of the Christian church (Acts 2:42). Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, please speak with the pastor BEFORE the service to find out how our “Close Communion” practice affects you.

Great Thanksgiving

[2 Tim 4:22, Col 3:1, Ps 136]

P *The Lord be with you.*

G **And with your spirit.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

G **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

G **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P *It is truly good and right that we should always and everywhere give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy upon us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

G **Amen.**

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.

Words of Institution

[Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25;
Through these words, the presence of our Lord's Body and Blood is effected in our midst.]

☩ Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night... in remembrance of me.

Song to the Lamb • “Lamb of God, Pure and Holy”

[ELH 41, st. 1]



☩ Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross did suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy-self to scorn did of - fer.



All sins Thou bor-est for us, Else had despair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!

-Be seated-

Distribution and Hymn • *ELH 91, "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"*

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

**Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of Kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:
We praise Thee, Father, now,
Creator, wise art Thou!**

2. A Helper just He comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Wherefore the earth is glad and sings:
We praise Thee, Savior, now,
Mighty in deed art Thou!

3. O blest the land the city blest,

**Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless Sun of joy He is,
Who bringeth pure delight and bliss.
We praise Thee, Spirit, now,
Our Comforter art Thou!**

4. Fling wide the portals of your heart;

**Prepare a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'ns employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
For lo, your Savior and your King
Salvation, life, and peace doth bring.
To Thee, O God, be praise
For word and deed and grace!**

5. Redeemer, come, and open wide

**My heart to Thee; here, Lord abide!
Let me Thy gracious presence feel,
Thy peace and love to all reveal;
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

☞ *Let us give thanks and pray:*

Almighty God and Father, we thank You for feeding us with the most precious body and blood of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of Your Son, and heirs of Your eternal Kingdom. Send us out to do the work You have given us to do, to love and serve You as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

God's Final Blessing to You ~ Benediction

☞ *The Lord bless you... and give you peace.*

☞ **Amen.**

Closing Hymn • “Lord Jesus Christ We Humbly Pray”

[text: 311, sts 4–5; tune: ELH 123]

**4. One bread, one cup, one body, we,
United by our life in Thee,
Thy love proclaim till Thou shalt come
To bring Thy scattered loved ones home.**

**5. Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
To keep us steadfast to that day
That each may be Thy welcomed guest
When Thou shalt spread Thy heav'nly feast.**

Worship Notes

- Preacher: Pastor Hartwig
- Organist: Thursday ~ Donna Moll Sunday ~ Kris Karnopp
- Scripture quotations marked EHV are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
- 8:00 a.m.—Ushers: Ron & Kevin Eickstedt, Evan Groth, Mark Hoerchner, Scott Larson, Scott & Logan Measner
- 10:30 a.m.—Ushers: Stephan Wolff, Willard Dohrwardt, Ryan & Ethan Ganshow, Dean Kelly, Chris Meinert, Justin & Braeden Reichert, Ralph Seidensticker
- December Altar Committee: Barb Miller: 414-659-7654