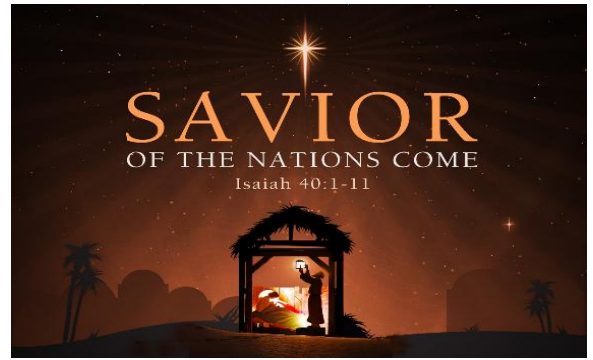


DECEMBER 14, 2025 • 8:30 AM • 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS TO COME -3- HARK THE GLAD SOUND



Welcome! We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened by His Word to be His witnesses.

Families, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; there is a cry room near the back of the sanctuary and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the elevator (to the left as you exit the sanctuary). **Guests**, we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the Guest side of the Welcome Card found in the pews/ chair backs and place it in the offering plates. **Holy Communion** questions, please see purple sheets on *Info Table* or near the bulletins.

As We Gather: Isaiah anticipates that the people in Babylonian exile will miss his Gospel message in Isaiah 40:1–5. He signals his disappointment through the sudden shift from the divine glory, witnessed by all flesh (Isaiah 40:5), to the pathos of human transience in Isaiah 40:6–8a where “grass” is used to describe people four times. The only sure source of joy and life is God’s Word which endures forever (Isaiah 40:8b).

WELCOME/ VIDEO

“Come and See, Joy” – Skit Guys

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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

OPENING HYMN

345 “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

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

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.

Text and tune: Public domain

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

[Two purple candles and one pink candle are lit.]

P O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel.

C Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel! Shall come to thee, O Israel!

P O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, To us the path of knowledge show,

C Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel! Shall come to thee, O Israel!

P O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free us from Satan's tyranny,

C Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel! Shall come to thee, O Israel!

P O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh,

C Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel! Shall come to thee, O Israel!

P O come, Desire of nations, bind, And be Thyself our King of Peace.

C Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel! Shall come to thee, O Israel!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(based upon Isaiah 53:6 and 40:1-2)

(Silence for personal confession and reflection.)

P We come with great expectation to await the coming Messiah.

C All creation waits with great longing for the Son of God.

P As John the Baptist cried out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord,"

C We are here to prepare a place in our hearts for His coming.

P In preparation, we confess together:

C God of Advent, we confess that our excitement about this season often has very little to do with Jesus. We surround ourselves with the ornaments of the season, yet we feel alone and lifeless. We confess that we find more pleasure in receiving than giving. Forgive the sins of our thoughts, words, and actions. In this Advent season, empower us to know that forgiveness is possible only because of the Christ Child, Jesus our Lord.

P People of God, today we have good news to share with each other. Christ came into the world to save us from sin and to restore us to a right relationship with God and with each other. God came in human flesh to be one of us—to know our pain and to live among us. God comes to us in the baby Jesus, born to give life and hope to all of us—God's children. You are forgiven and you are set free!

C Amen! Come quickly, Lord Jesus, Amen!

GREETING

KYRIE

P For the peace we have with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C Kyrie eleison.

P For peace among families, nations, and peoples, let us pray to the Lord:

C Kyrie eleison.

P For those who rejoice because we have access to this faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Kyrie eleison.

P For a joyful witness to Christ before the world even as trials may come, let us pray to the Lord:

C Kyrie eleison.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

515 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, And soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience, Their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever, When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory, The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him, Their diadems of gold.
- 4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, That sets Your people free!

Text: Public domain

SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING -

Isaiah 40:1-11

(The highlighted section is read together.)

(Comfort Given to God's People.)

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

- L *This is the Word of the Lord.*
C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

331 "The Advent of Our King"



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
 5 Be - fore the dawn - ing day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
 Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
 The sin - ful self be put a - way, The new self now put on.

Text and tune: Public domain

EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 1:15-24

(All the promises of God find their "yes" in Jesus.)

¹⁵ Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. ¹⁶ I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. ¹⁷ Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say "Yes, yes" and "No, no" at the same time? ¹⁸ As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. ²¹ And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. ²³ But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

VERSE

P Alleluia. Stir up Your might

C And come to save us. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:32-44

(The lesson of the fig tree.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

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

³² "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁶ "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

HOLY GOSPEL *(cont.)*

Matthew 24:32-44

⁴³ But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Be Seated – Children Dismissed for Children's Church

MESSAGE HYMN

349 "Hark the Glad Sound"

- 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 belovèd name.

Text: Public domain

MESSAGE

Please Stand – Children return from Children's Church

CREED

Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and Meaning

C I believe 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.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

OFFERING

(Thanks for your ongoing stewardship and support of God's mission here!)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Various Scriptures, Psalm 70:4)

(Prayer response after each petition...)

P May all who seek You,

C Rejoice and be glad in You!

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

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.

Be seated

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Please Stand

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

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.

CLOSING HYMN

350 "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"

1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our

sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,

O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er

let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Public domain

Into the world, rejoicing in Jesus ...

A HUGE "Thank you" to those that served to make worship happen (virtual and in-person) today...

Pastor Rev. Jason Hoerth
Children's Message Chris Graves DCE
Deaconess Intern Julia Witt
Trustee..... Larry Neack

Acolyte Vera Longley
Reader Soozie Tomes
Musician EunYoung Lee
Elder Bob Remmele



Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Parts created by *Lutheran Service Builder* © 2006 Concordia Publishing House, Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A 2026, Quarter 1 Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. LSB Lic. # 100012717. All rights reserved. CCLI License # 102268. Used by permission.

Taking the cross of grace and peace to form a community of uncommon servants.