

*Prepare the way  
for the  
Lord,*

*make  
straight  
paths for him.*

*Matthew 3:3*



*‡Wednesday, December 6, 2023 ‡  
‡11:00 am - Advent Service ‡*

## **Welcome in Jesus' Name**

**May God richly bless you as you worship Him. If you are a guest with us, we want you to feel welcome; you honor us with your presence, and we are glad to have you here. Please fill out the Attendance Registration located in your bulletin. Prayer requests can also be taken care of on the same insert. If you have a specific prayer request that you would like the Pastor to pray for during the Prayers of the Church, please fill out the bulletin insert and give it to an usher, who will then deliver it to the Pastor.**

### **Holy Communion**

**We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper as part of our worship service, on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month during the 8:30am service and the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday during the 10:30am service. We invite those who share our confession of faith, namely, that Jesus is truly present in, with & under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation to commune with us. Those who share a different confession or have not yet been instructed in the Lord's Supper are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing.**

**We offer individual cups. The light-colored cups in the center are grape juice instead of wine. Pastor will be available prior to the worship service to answer any questions about Holy Communion.**

### **To Our Guests**

**We often have guests in worship from all over the world. Please introduce yourself to Pastor or a Greeter before or after the worship service.**

***Large Print Bulletin: If you desire a sight-saving bulletin, please ask an usher.***

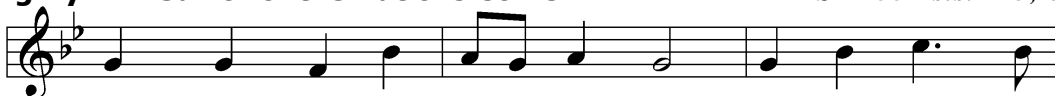
## Prelude

## Welcome

*Please stand for the final verse of the opening hymn*

## Opening Hymn - Savior of the Nations Come

*LSB #332 sts. 1–3, 8*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
△ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
God was there up - on His throne.  
Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter

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Text (sts. 1–2) and tune: Public domain

## Opening Versicles

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

**C** Amen.

**P** This is the day which the Lord has made;

**C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**P** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.  
**C** **Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**

**P** Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**C** **Make His paths straight.**

**P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.  
**C** **Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

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

## Old Testament

*Jonah 3*

**P** God is very clear! When He says repent, it is not a suggestion, unless we desire to suffer His wrath and punishment. The people of Nineveh recognize the offer from God, and do not turn away from it. Instead, they turn towards God, repent of their sins, and seek God's forgiveness. This is a guide for all of us to follow. The Old Testament reading is from Jonah chapter 3:

<sup>1</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

<sup>6</sup>The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup>And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, <sup>8</sup>but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. <sup>9</sup>Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 3:1-6*

**P** The voice in the wilderness is very clear, "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Listen closely and recognize God's call on your life to turn from your sin, seek His grace, and for the sake of Jesus Christ beg for His forgiveness. The Voice of God is calling. The Holy Gospel is from Matthew chapter 3.

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

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

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

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

## **Apostles' Creed**

**C** 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.**

*Sit*

## 610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;  
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;  
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;  
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;  
5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.  
Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.  
In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!  
Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty Point out Your cho - sen way.  
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365-c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-96, alt.  
Tune: William Daman, c. 1540-1591  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Prophecy Candle - The Prophet's Message*

*The Offering plate will be on the table next to the bulletins. If you brought an offering today, please place it in the plate on your way out this morning.*

*Please stand*

## Prayer

- P** Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness and bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for Your holy Church, for the means of grace, for the lives of all faithful and just people, and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that You have done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness in lives that are wholly given to Your service. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Save and defend Your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Strengthen Your faithful people through the Word and the holy Sacraments, making them perfect in love and in all good works, and establishing in them the faith once delivered to the saints. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Send the light of Your truth into all the earth. Raise up faithful servants of Christ to advance the Gospel both at home and in distant lands. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Preserve our nation in justice and honor that we may lead a peaceable life with integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, especially our president, governors, federal, state, and local officials, and all who make, administer, and judge our laws. Help them to serve this people according to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Take from us all hatred and prejudice, give us the spirit of love, and order our days in Your peace. Prosper the labor of those who work to bring peace and justice to the nations of the world that mutual understanding and common endeavor may be increased among all peoples. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Bless the schools of the Church especially here at Shepherd of the Coast, and all colleges, universities, and centers of research and those who teach and work in them. Grant Your wisdom in such measure that people may serve You honorably in Church and state, and that our common life may be conformed to the ways of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Sanctify our homes with Your presence, and bless them with joy. Keep our children in the covenant of their Baptism, and enable their parents to bring them up in lives of faith and devotion. Unite the members of all families in a spirit of affection and service that they may show Your praise in our land and in all the world. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**



- P** By Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Be with those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints, and bring us at last to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever.
- C** **Amen.**

### **Collect for the Word**

- P** Let us pray.  
Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

### **Morning Prayer**

- C** **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.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Blessing

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**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 - Savior of the Nations Come

LSB #332 sts. 4-7



4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and  
5 God the Fa - ther was His source, Back to God He  
6 For You are the Fa - ther's Son Who in flesh the  
7 From the man - ger new - born light Shines in glo - ry



king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,  
ran His course. In - to hell His road went down,  
vic - t'ry won. By Your might - y pow'r make whole  
through the night. Dark - ness there no more re - sides;



His he - ro - ic course be - gan.  
Back then to His throne and crown.  
All our ills of flesh and soul.  
In this light faith now a - bides.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546; (sts. 4-5): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (st. 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobier, 1973

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter

Text (sts. 4-5): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 6-7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000826

Tune: Public domain

## The Dismissal

**P** Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## Acknowledgments

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## ***Opportunities at Shepherd of the Coast***

✠8:30 am – A traditional worship service in the classic Lutheran liturgical style.

✠9:30 am – Adult Bible Study and Sunday School

✠10:30 am – Praise Service – A contemporary worship service that is geared to families with young children.

### **Church Staff**

**Pastor: Chad Czischke**

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