

*Prepare the way  
for the  
Lord,*

*make  
straight  
paths for him.*

*Matthew 3:3*



**‡Wednesday, December 6, 2023 ‡**

**‡7:00 pm - 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

*Tonight, we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle represents a different focus of hope, joy, love, and peace. The first candle represents the prophecy candle or the candle of hope. Prophetic messages of the Old Testament were clear messages from God either calling for repentance or declaring a future event. These messages often came during difficult or hard times, when the people either needed to change their ways and repent or when they needed to be uplifted through their struggles. As we light this candle and reflect on some of the prophecies, I pray they speak to your heart and move you to hope in the promise of the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who is our Immanuel.*

*Please stand*

## Advent Responses

- A** As we light our Advent wreath, we remember the One who comes- Jesus, the light of the world. He came as a baby in a manger.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** He came to be our Savior.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** With joy and gladness,
- C** **We celebrate His coming.**
- A** He comes to us each day in the promise of his presence.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** Let us open our hearts to Him,
- C** **And walk in His ways.**
- A** He will come again to take us to Himself in heaven.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray: Father above, advent is a season of preparation and a time of focus upon Your Word of truth and hope. As we reflect upon the meaning of the Advent wreath and focus upon its meaning of hope, joy, love, and peace, help us find hope in You, joy in Your truth, love in Your promise of our Savior, and peace in the message of Your Word. Guide us through this season so that we may embrace the true meaning, and celebrate with amazing joy on Christmas Day, the fulfillment of Your promise of our Savior. In Jesus name.

**C** Amen.

### 332 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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## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

*Please be seated*

## Readings of the Prophecy

*Select Verses of the Old Testament*

- A** I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring[a] and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”  
Genesis 3:15
- A** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” Jeremiah 31:33-34
- A** Thus says the Lord: “For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment, because they have rejected the law of the Lord, and have not kept his statutes, but their lies have led them astray, those after which their fathers walked. So I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the strongholds of Jerusalem.” Amos 2:4-5
- A** Behold, I will make you small among the nations; you shall be utterly despised. The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in your lofty dwelling, who say in your heart, “Who will bring me down to the ground?” Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, from there I will bring you down, declares the Lord.  
Obadiah 1:2-4

**A** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Isaiah 11:1-4

**A** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon[d] his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. Isaiah 9:6-7

**A** But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Micah 5:2

**A** Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.  
Psalm 51:10-12

## 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.**

*Please stand*

## **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.**

*Please be seated*

## **Special Music**

*K-3*

## **Sermon**

*Prophecy Candle - The Prophet's Message*



*The Offering is an opportunity to return to God what He has blessed us with. This is an act of sacrifice out of the generosity of our hearts guided by God's Spirit. It is a gracious response of our members. If you are a visitor, then we simply ask you to enjoy the service this evening. If you feel led by the Spirit to give, then please place your offering in the plate by the bulletins on your way out this evening.*

## **Special Music**

*Grades 4-5*

*Please stand*

## **Prayers**

### **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.

*Evening and Lord's Prayer led by the Students*

### **Luther's Evening Prayer**

- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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.

## Lord's Prayer

**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** 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.

## 332 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. Grobien, 1973

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## 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**

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