Third Sunday of Advent

Service of the Word Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020

PRELUDE Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 659 & 660) | Johann Sebastian Bach

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

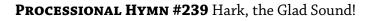
Most merciful God,

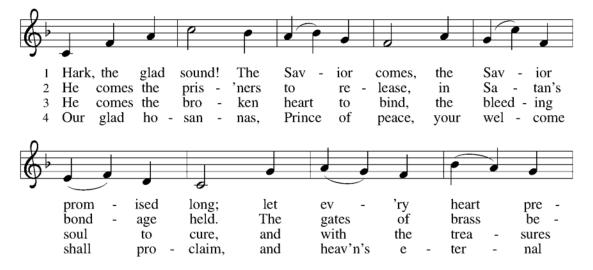
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

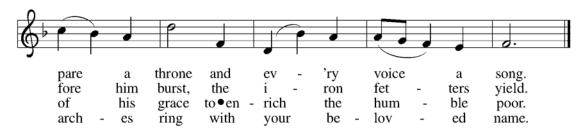
Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.







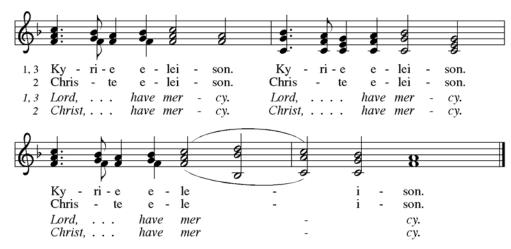
Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie



Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

FIRST READING Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the

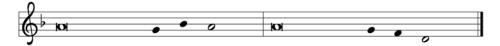
Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 126

The cantor and congregation alternate in the singing of psalm verses, beginning with the cantor.



When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,

then were we like | those who dream.

- Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great | things for them."
- The Lord has done great | things for us, and we are | glad indeed.

```
Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.
Those who | sowed with tears
```

will reap with | songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed, will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 1:6-8, 19-28

Glory to you, O Lord.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY #241 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



APOSTLES' CREED I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day, he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

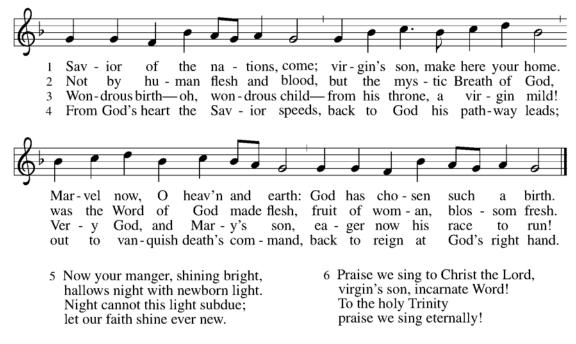
Spoken by all.
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory. forever and ever. Amen.

Sending

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN #263 Savior of the Nations, Come



Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland (BWV 661) | Johann Sebastian Bach

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License 26456. Hymns reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net #A-703710. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Serving today

Pastor Brad Pohlman
Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson
Andrew Schaeffer
Bob Brod

Luther Memorial Church staff

The Rev. Brad Pohlman, Senior Pastor The Rev. John Worzala Dumke, Associate Pastor The Rev. Rebecca Ninke, Visitation Pastor Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson, Seminary Intern Sarah Brinkman, Office Coordinator Kim O'Leary, Church Administrator Andrew Schaeffer, Director of Music Suelyn Swiggum, Director of Shared Ministry Robin Wagner, Communication Coordinator Dan Zerger, Custodian

Lutheran Campus Ministry

The Rev. Emily Tveite

Parroquia Santa Maria

The Rev. Kirsten Worzala Dumke, Mission Pastor

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop The Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, Synod Biship