



## THIRD MIDWEEK SERVICE IN ADVENT

December 17, 2025

### As We Gather

This message reflects the peace God gives to those who labor faithfully even when results are unseen. John the Baptist's question from prison mirrors the questions many workers of faith ask today. Christ answers with reassurance that His Kingdom is advancing, even when we cannot see it. This service invites worshipers into patient hope grounded in Christ's finished work.

## ✠ WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP ✠

Hymn            Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come (LSB 350)

### Invocation

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

### Opening Sentences

*Isaiah 7:14; Jeremiah 33:16*

- P** The Lord Himself will give you a sign.  
**C** Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.
- P** In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely.  
**C** And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

### Psalm

*Psalm 85:1–4, 9–11; antiphon: v. 7*

- P** Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,  
**C** and grant us Your salvation.

**P** LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

**C** You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**P** You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

**C** You covered all their sin.

**P** You withdrew all Your wrath;

**C** You turned from Your hot anger.

**P** Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

**C** and put away Your indignation toward us!

**P** Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

**C** that glory may dwell in our land.

**P** Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

**C** righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**P** Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

**C** and righteousness looks down from the sky.

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

**P** Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

**C** and grant us Your salvation.

## **Prayer of the Day**

**P** Let us pray.

**Lord God, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Your Son and to call all people to repentance. Strengthen us in times of waiting, renew our patience, and remind us that no labor done in faith is ever wasted. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**C** Amen.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*James 5:7–11*

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading

*Matthew 11:2–15*

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.

What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**Hymn**                      Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord (LSB 352)  
*sts. 1–2, 5–6*

## **Sermon Series: Waiting**

### **Sermon Title: The Worker’s Peace**

**Offering**                      O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB 357)  
*sts. ref, 5–6*

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

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav’nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death’s dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Prayer of the Church (Hear our prayer)

**P** ... Lord in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

## 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.

## 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.

## Benedicamus

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Closing Sentences

*Luke 1:49, alt.*

**P** He who is mighty has done great things for me.

**C** Holy is His name.

**P** To God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be all honor and glory in His holy church, forever and ever.

**C** **Amen. Christ died! Christ is risen! Christ shall come again!**

## **Benediction**

**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.**

## **Hymn**

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (LSB 347)

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.  
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