

**The Third Sunday In Advent
December 17, 2023
Heritage Lutheran Church
Apple Valley, MN
8:00 & 10:30 a.m.**



Rite Two with Communion - ELH page 60

1. Welcome

2. Opening Hymn #98 “Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending”

(Please stand for the last verse)

1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for our salvation slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ reveals His endless reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him,
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of His Passion
Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom for Thine own.
O come quickly, O come quickly, O come quickly!
Alleluia! come, Lord, come!

3. The Invocation

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

♪ **Congregation** Amen.

4. Confession of Sin and Absolution

Pastor Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Pastor Our help is in the name of the Lord.

♪ **Congregation** Who made heaven and earth.

Pastor I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

♪ **Congregation** And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Congregation O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only-begotten Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Congregation Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

5. Introit (Latin, "Entrance") Psalm 85:1-4

Pastor ¹ LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

² You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. *Selah* ³ You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. ⁴ Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

6. The Gloria Patri (Latin, "Glory to the Father")

♪ **Congregation** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

7. The Kyrie Eleison (Greek, "Lord Have Mercy")

♪ **Congregation** Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

8. The Gloria in Excelsis Deo (Latin, "Glory in the highest to God") (Omitted During Lent)

♪ **Congregation** Glory be to God on high; And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You, for Your great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For You only are holy. You only are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

9. The Salutation

Pastor The Lord be with you.

♪ **Congregation** And with your spirit.

10. The Collect

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

♪ **Congregation** Amen.

11. Old Testament Lesson *Isaiah 61:1-3,10-11*

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

12. The Epistle *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil. ²³ Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

13. Heritage Choir “Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head” arr: Paul Christiansen Appalachian Carol

Winds were blowing, Stars were glowing,
Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head, You have got a manger bed;
All the other kings on earth Sleep in feathers at their birth;
Jesus, Jesus, rest your head Gently on a manger bed.

Have you heard about our Jesus? How He came, the King of all?
Born to Mary, lowly mother In a humble cattle stall.
Winds were blowing, Cows were lowing, Winds were blowing, Stars were glowing,
Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, You have got a manger bed.

To that manger came three Wisemen, Bringing gifts from hin and yon
For the mother and the father And the blessed little Son.
Shepherds left their fields and flocks, Sat beside the ass and ox,

Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, You have got a manger bed,
All the other kings on earth Sleep in feathers at their birth,
Jesus, Jesus, rest your head, You have got a manger bed.

14. The Gospel *John 1:6-8, 19-28 Please stand*

Pastor The Holy Gospel for today is written in the...

♪ **Congregation** Glory be to You, O Lord!

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰ He confessed, and did

not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight^[a] the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." ²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Pastor This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

♪ **Congregation** Praise be to You, O Christ!

15. The Confession of Faith *The Nicene Creed*

Congregation I believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the Resurrection of the dead and the Life of the world to come. Amen.

16. Chief Hymn #106 "On Jordan's Bank The Herald's Cry"

1 On Jordan's bank the herald's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and harken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be ev'ry Christian breast,
And furnished for so great a Guest;
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

3 For thou art our salvation, Lord,
Our Refuge and our great Reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away,
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick, stretch our Thine hand
And bid the fallen sinner stand;
Once more upon Thy people shine
And fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,
Whose advent set Thy people free;
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Ghost, for evermore.

17. Sermon – "He Stands Among You" *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

18. The Offertory Verse

♪ **Congregation** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your free Spirit. Amen.

19. Offering

20. Prayer of the Church

The Service Of Holy Communion

Heritage Lutheran Church practices Close Communion. We ask that only members of the ELS and WELS partake of the Lord's Supper today. Visitors, please speak with Pastor Anderson about receiving the Sacrament in the future.

21. The Preface (p. 72)

Pastor The Lord be with you.

♪ **Congregation** And with your spirit.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

♪ **Congregation** We lift them up unto the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

♪ **Congregation** It is good and right so to do.

Pastor It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

22. The Sanctus (Latin, "Holy") (p.76)

♪ **Congregation** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

23. The Lord's Prayer: (p.77)

Pastor 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.

♪ **Congregation** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

24. The Words of Institution (p.79)

Pastor Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

25. The Pax Domini (Latin, "The Peace of the Lord")

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

♪ **Congregation** Amen.

26. The Agnus Dei (Latin, "Lamb of God")

♪ **Congregation** O Christ the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

27. The Distribution

28. The Nunc Dimittis (Latin, "Now Dismiss Us") (p.81)

♪ **Congregation** Lord, now You let Your servant depart in peace according to Your word. For my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

29. The Prayer of Thanksgiving (p.83)

Pastor O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

♪ **Congregation** And His mercy endures forever.

Pastor Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through these salutary gifts, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through them in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

♪ **Congregation** Amen.

30. Hymn of Thanksgiving #141 "Once He Came In Blessing"

1 Once he came in blessing, All our ills redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us, Hope and freedom gave us.

2 Still He comes within us; Still His voice would win us
From the sins that hurt us; Would to truth convert us
From our foolish error Ere He comes in terror.

3 Who by faith endureth Bright reward secureth.
Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us;
Let us here confess Thee Till in heav'n we bless Thee.

31. The Salutation

Pastor The Lord be with you.

♪ **Congregation** And with your spirit.

32. The Benedicamus

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to God.

33. The Benediction

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

♪ **Congregation** Amen, amen, amen

34. Closing Hymn #91 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of Glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near, The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring, Wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:
We praise Thee, Father, now, Creator, wise art Thou!

2 A Helper just He comes to thee, His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress,
The end of all our woe He brings; Wherefore the earth is glad and sings:
We praise Thee, Savior, now, Mighty in deed art Thou!

3 O blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!

The cloudless Sun of joy He is, Who bringeth pure delight and bliss.
We praise Thee, Spirit, now, Our Comforter art Thou!

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for Heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
For lo, your Savior and your King Salvation, life, and peace doth bring.
To Thee, O God, be praise For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come, and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me Thy gracious presence feel, Thy peace and love to all reveal;
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

Announcements

Advent Midweek Worship – We will have one more midweek service on December 20th. We will have supper before the service at 5:15 pm.

Call Meeting – We will have a call meeting between services today.

TLC Christmas Gathering – Tomorrow - December 18th at Jane Fahning's home (16242 Dutch Barn Drive) at 5:30 p.m. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. All women of the congregation are welcome.

Christmas Week Worship Schedule –

Wed. Dec. 20th – Advent Midweek Service at 6:30 p.m. (Supper at 5:15 pm)

Christmas Eve Morning – Sunday School Christmas Service at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve Worship with Holy Communion – 10:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study – The Monday Evening Bible Class is studying Ecclesiastes. They meet at church at 6:30 pm. Contact Ruth Braun if you would like more information. We will reconvene on January 8th.

Men's Bible Study – Men's Bible study will reconvene after the New Year.

Meditations – The new meditations are available on the welcome stand.

Fellowship - Volunteers are always needed to provide fellowship food every Sunday. Please sign up on the volunteer board.

Choir – The choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. New members are always welcome!

