



**Sunday, December 11, 2022 Service  
Advent 3, Year A  
Officiated by a Lay Minister**

**GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MANISTEE, MICHIGAN**

## GATHERING

### GATHERING VOLUNTARY

“Savior of the Nations, Come”, BWV 659  
Setting by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

### WELCOME

*All who are able, stand at the invitation of the presiding minister.*

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the Second candle is PEACE, and third candle is JOY.

Let us pray,

**Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.**

### HYMN

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” ELW 240 Verse 3

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

As we prepare for this great gift, let us confess our sins and hear the promise of forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage 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 as given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness” ELW 255

## **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.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.



Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo- ple of God. Pow- er and rich - es and wis- dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless- ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic- to- ry for our God. Al- le - lu - ia.



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless- ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic- to- ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**



**who executes justice for the oppressed;  
 who gives food to the hungry.  
 The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
 the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
 The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
 the LORD loves the righteous.  
 The LORD watches over the strangers;  
 he upholds the orphan and the widow,  
 but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
 The LORD will reign forever,  
 your God, O Zion, for all generations.  
 Praise the LORD!**

**Glorify 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.**

**SECOND READING**

James 5:7-10

A reading from James:

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

*All who are able, stand for the Gospel.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“All Earth is Hopeful” ELW 266

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Heavenly Father, You have wonderfully created all things and with Your grace and mercy, granted us new life through Christ our Savior. Clear the path before us that we may remain in Your grace and mercy and do those things which are pleasing to You. Guide our footsteps and enliven our hearts that in all we do, we bring praise to You by the grace You grant through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

### **Hear our Prayer.**

Lord Jesus, the One who was, who is, and who is to come, You have given us Your word of hope and promise. You are the living Gospel which has been poured into our hearts and given us hope through the promise of the redemption which is ours through You. By the grace You have poured out from the cross, lead us in the way of the cross that we might now and forever abide in You as You abide in us. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

### **Hear our Prayer.**

Come Holy Spirit and kindle in us the fire of Your love. Renew in us a right spirit and cleanse our hearts and minds that we may be prepared to live in the hope which is ours in the redemption of Christ our Savior. Lead us this day, and all of the days You grant us, in order that we may be prepared for all that is to come. Keep our hearts and minds close to the truth which has been revealed through the Gospel. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

### **Hear our Prayer.**

We thank You Almighty God for the manifold benefits which are ours through the promise which produces the hope within us in the saving knowledge of the Gospel which You have given us. In Your mercy and grace, guide us into all righteousness, conforming our lives

to the image of Your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

**Hear our Prayer.**

All authority belongs to You Lord God. You grant authority to whom You grant authority. Help us to obey all of Your commands and honor those whom You have appointed to positions of oversight. Be with all who are in positions of authority and be the One who leads them. Watch over our president, governor, and all who are in authority. Lead our bishop, dean, and all pastors to rightly proclaim the Gospel You have given us. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

**Hear our Prayer.**

Great Physician, bring healing into our midst. Bind up those who are hurting, heal those who are sick, and let the truth of Your Gospel heal those who are estranged from You. Be with all caregivers and help them to be mindful of the tasks You have given them to do. Hear us now as we pray for those for whom we have concern, lifting their names up to You, whether spoken aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

**Hear our Prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**GREETING OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people exchange signs of peace, all are seated.*

**ANTHEM**

“People Look East”

Arranged by René Clausen (b. 1953)

*Please stand.*

**MEAL**

**PRAYER**

Let us pray,

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION

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

**Amen.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

## LORD'S PRAYER

Father, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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**

## LAMB OF GOD (ELW4)

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*All are welcome to commune.*

## COMMUNION VOLUNTARY

“O Day of Peace”  
Setting by Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950)

*All who are able, please stand.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

## COMMUNION HYMN

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” ELW 461

## PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

### SENDING HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” ELW 254

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## SENDING VOLUNTARY

“The King Shall Come”  
Setting by David N. Johnson (1922–1987)



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