

Third Sunday of Advent



December 14, 2025



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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



a Reconciling in Christ
Congregation

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

*Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. † You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

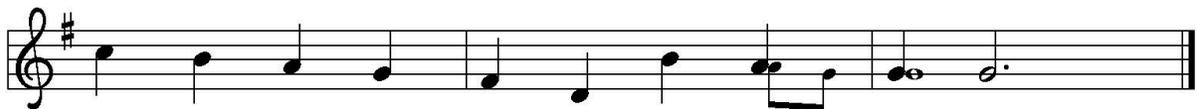
*Gathering Hymn: My does magnify the Lord (ELW 882, vv 1-4)



1 My soul does mag - ni - fy the Lord; my spir - it
 2 From this day all will call me blest, from now through
 3 His mer - cy touch - es those who love, and those who
 4 He cast the might - y from their thrones, and he has
 5 He comes to all who seek his love, for he re -
 6 All glo - ry be to God on high, and to his
 7 Just as it was, it is to - day, and it shall



sings of God my Sav - ior, for he has looked with
 all the com - ing a - ges. The Lord has done great
 serve . . . one an - oth - er. And with great strength he has
 lift - ed up the low - ly. He fills the hun - gry
 mem - bers the prom - ise that he had made to
 Son, . . . God the Sav - ior, and to the Spir - it of
 last through all to - mor - rows, and so my soul mag - ni -



love and fa - vor on his low - ly ser - vant.
 things for me and ho - ly is his name.
 scat - tered all the proud in their con - ceit.
 with good things while oth - ers turn a - way.
 A - bra - ham and to the chil - dren of God.
 life and truth that burns with - in our hearts.
 fies the Lord; praise God for - ev - er. A - men.

Text: Grayson Warren Brown, b. 1948
 Music: GOSPEL MAGNIFICAT, Grayson Warren Brown
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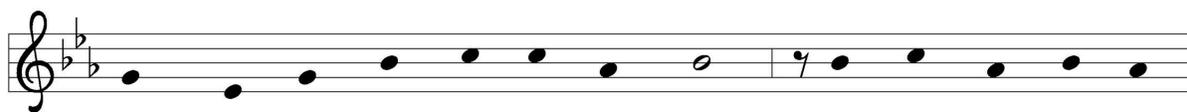
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*Greeting

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

C: And also with you.

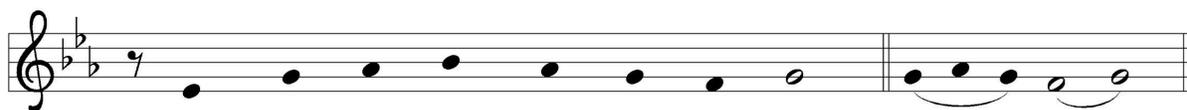
*Candlelighting Hymn: Creator of the Stars of Night (ELW 245, v 3&5)



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

*Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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 35:1-10

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

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.]]

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

4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

6 then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

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

7 the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

9 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.

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle: Luke 1:46b-55



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus-tice burn.



Wipe a-way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, 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. 8 You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. 9 Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" 4 Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. 6 And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

7 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? 8 What, then, did you go out

to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. 9 What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 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.'

11 "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."

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: ELW 726 (Light dawns on a weary world)



1 Light dawns on a weary world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a weary world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a weary world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



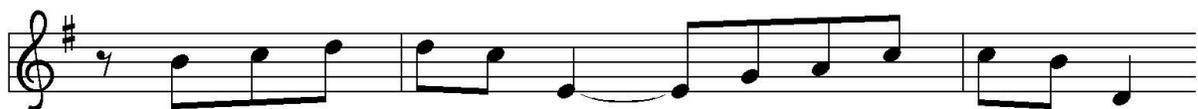
wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

*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

...hear us O God.

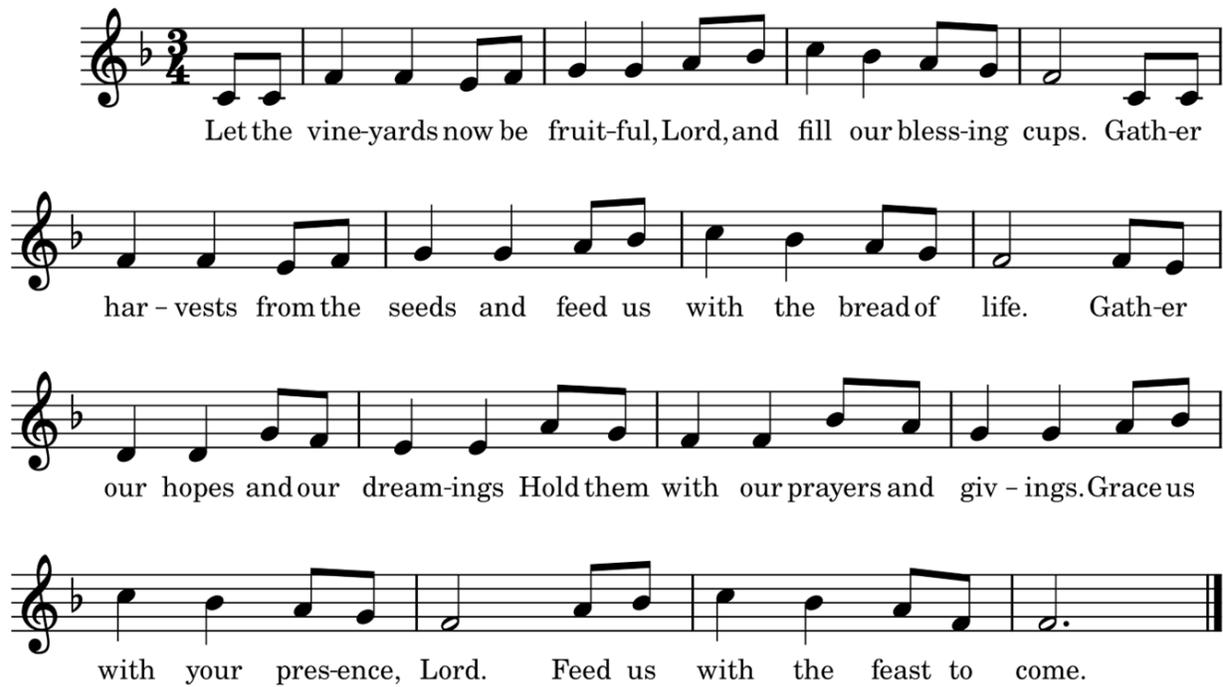
Your mercy is great.

*Peace

Meal

Musical Offering

*Offering Hymn



Let the vine-yards now be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill our bless-ing cups. Gath-er
har - vests from the seeds and feed us with the bread of life. Gath-er
our hopes and our dream-ings Hold them with our prayers and giv - ings. Grace us
with your pres-ence, Lord. Feed us with the feast to come.

*Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

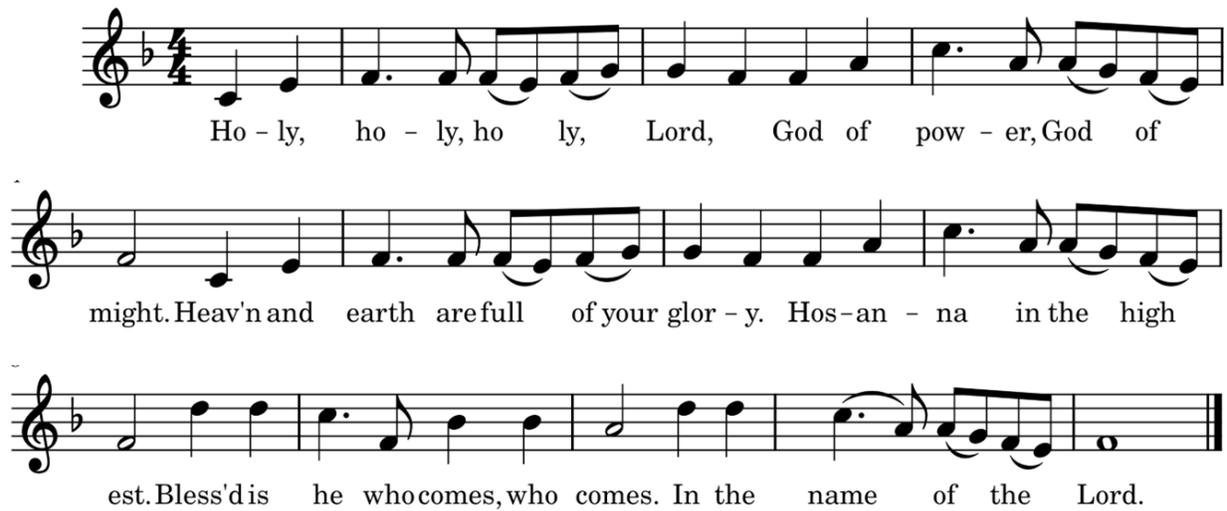
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho ly, Lord, God of pow - er, God of
might. Heav'n and earth are full of your glor - y. Hos - an - na in the high
est. Bless'd is he who comes, who comes. In the name of the Lord.

*Eucharistic Prayer

*Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Lamb of God



Lamb of God you take a - way the sins of all the world. Lamb of God
you take a - way the sins of all the world. Have mer-cy on us now.
And grant to us your good peace, O ho - ly lamb of God.

Communion Distribution

*Post-communion prayer

Sending

*Blessing

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,
God the Son save you,
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.

The holy Trinity bless you ✚
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart
now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Sending hymn: My soul does magnify, vv 5-7



1 My soul does mag - ni - fy the Lord; my spir - it
2 From this day all will call me blest, from now through
3 His mer - cy touch - es those who love, and those who
4 He cast the might - y from their thrones, and he has
5 He comes to all who seek his love, for he re -
6 All glo - ry be to God on high, and to his
7 Just as it was, it is to - day, and it shall



sings of God my Sav - ior, for he has looked with
all the com - ing a - ges. The Lord has done great
serve . . . one an - oth - er. And with great strength he has
lift - ed up the low - ly. He fills the hun - gry
mem - bers the prom - ise that he had made to
Son, . . . God the Sav - ior, and to the Spir - it of
last through all to - mor - rows, and so my soul mag - ni -



love and fa - vor on his low - ly ser - vant.
things for me and ho - ly is his name.
scat - tered all the proud in their con - ceit.
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*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is coming soon.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude