

**Third Sunday in Advent**  
**December 12, 2021**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**P** How are you named?

**R** [Name]

**P** [Name], receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ☩ forehead and upon your ☩ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold [name(s)] according to Your boundless mercy and bless [him/her/them] with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in [him/her/them], which has been inherited from Adam and which [he himself / she herself / they themselves] [has/have] committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that [he/she/they] be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so

that, with all believers in Your promise, [he/she/they] would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**P** From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles’ Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord’s Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

**P** Is it your intention to serve [name of candidate(s)] as sponsors in the Christian faith?

**R** *Yes, with the help of God.*

**P** God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

**C Amen.**

**P** Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.” And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

**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.**

**P** The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even † forevermore.

**C Amen.**

**P** *[Name(s)]*, do you renounce the devil?

**R** *Yes, I renounce him.*

**P** Do you renounce all his works?

**R** *Yes, I renounce them.*

**P** Do you renounce all his ways?

**R** *Yes, I renounce them.*

**P** Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

**R** *Yes, I believe.*

**P** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

**R** *Yes, I believe.*

**P** Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

**R** *Yes, I believe.*

**P** *[Name]*, do you desire to be baptized?

**R** *Yes, I do.*

**P** *[Name]*, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life † everlasting.

**C Amen.**

**P** Receive this white garment to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

**P** Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

**A** In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you *[a member / members]* of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and *[an heir / heirs]* with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our *[brother(s)/sister(s)]* in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

**C Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted *[name(s)]* the new birth in Holy Baptism and made *[him/her/them]* *[a member / members]* of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and *[an heir / heirs]* of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as *[he/she/they]* *[has/have]* now become Your *[child/children]*, You would keep *[him/her/them]* in *[his/her/their]* baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure *[he/she/they]* may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

**P** Peace † be with you.

**C Amen.**

**Introit**

*Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

Rejoice in the Lord always;

**again I will say, Rejoice.**

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

**whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

**who keeps faith forever;**

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.

**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.**

Rejoice in the Lord always;  
**again I will say, Rejoice.**

### Kyrie

**A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** 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.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C Amen.**

### 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*sts. 1, ref, 4–5*

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain**

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

**4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain**

**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**

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### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading

*Zephaniah 3:14–20*

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

### Gradual

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

**Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

Behold, your king is coming to you;

**righteous and having salvation.**

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

### Epistle Reading

*Philippians 4:4–7*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia and Verse

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

### Holy Gospel Reading

*Luke 7:18–28*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

1 The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills  
And life to joy awakes.

2 Not as of old a little child,  
To bear and fight and die,  
But crowned with glory like the sun  
That lights the morning sky.

3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn  
When Christ, victorious, rose  
And left the lonesome place of death  
Despite the rage of foes.

4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn  
Shall dawn upon our race  
The day when Christ in splendor comes  
And we shall see His face.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:  
Come quickly, King of kings!

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Sermon: "The King Comes" Zephaniah 3:14-20

Offering

Offertory

**C** What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?  
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,  
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

### Prayer of the Church

**P** ...Lord, in your mercy:

**C** Hear our prayer.

**P** ...through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

**C** Amen.

### 737 Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing

*sts. 1–2, 4, 6–7*

1 Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing,  
A cheerful trust maintain;  
For God, the source of ev'rything,  
Your portion shall remain.

2 He is your treasure, He your joy,  
Your life and light and Lord,  
Your counselor when doubts annoy,  
Your shield and great reward.

4 Did not His love and truth and pow'r  
Guard ev'ry childhood day?  
And did He not in threat'ning hour  
Turn dreaded ills away?

6 His wisdom never plans in vain  
Nor falters nor mistakes.  
All that His counsels may ordain  
A blessed ending makes.

7 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,  
And trust His guiding love;  
Then like a rock your peace shall stand  
Here and in heav'n above.

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#### Acknowledgments

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