



— THIRD SUNDAY IN — ADVENT

Third Sunday in Advent

8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

Dec. 13, 2020

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
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Pastor Chris Waldvogel
Pastor Brian Shane

Welcome! Lit on the third Sunday of the season, the pink candle stands out in the Advent wreath. The third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday, centers on rejoicing as God Himself nears to give His people comfort, freeing them from the grasp of sin and death.

+ **Order of Worship** +

Song

“Hymn of Joy”

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: Beloved in the Lord, as we light the Advent wreath, we rejoice that God sent Jesus, who breaks the darkness, proclaims the Gospel, and brings God’s compassion and salvation to light. For all the blessings our Lord brings, Paul reminds us:

C: **“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”**

P: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, we light the third candle of this wreath, rejoicing at Your first coming. Sanctify us completely. Keep our whole spirit and soul and body blameless as we await Your return; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Opening Versicles

P: This is the day that the Lord has made.

C: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: **the name of the Lord is to be praised!**

P: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

C: **Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**

P: Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: **Make His paths straight.**

P: Shower, O heavens, from above and let the skies rain down righteousness.

C: **Let the earth open that salvation may sprout forth.**

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C: **the name of the Lord is to be praised!**

Confession and Absolution

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

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.
C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.
C: **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,
C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

Introit *(Psalm 85:8-9, 12-13; antiphon, verse 7)*

P: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.
C: **Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

P: Surely, his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.
C: **Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.**

P: Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way
C: **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,
and grant us your salvation.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

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; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 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.

They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

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.

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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.

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. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light but came to bear witness about the light.

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 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?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsory

P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a Righteous Branch.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord is our Righteousness.

P: He shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord is our Righteousness.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord is our Righteousness.

The Ten Commandments

C: You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or his maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

I 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. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

Song

“In Christ Alone”

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the holy Christian church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For seasonable weather, and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the Holy Spirit to grant holy desires, good counsels and just works that we may live in peace and quietness, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the homes in which our people dwell that all may celebrate and serve in the vocations God has given, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those in distress of mind, body or soul, for the sick and the dying, and all those who have requested our prayers, including _____, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: *(Specific petitions)* Let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

Collect of the Day

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.

Collect for the Word

P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger, and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings in life may please You. 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.

Blessing

P: The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

Song

“Grace Like Rain”