

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

## Midweek of Advent 3

### December 15, 2021

#### Pre-Service Music & Welcome

+PREPARATION+

#### Hymn

#### “Let All Together Praise Our God”

LSB 389



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His  
 2 He leaves His heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an  
 3 With - in an earth - born form He hides His all - cre -  
 4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our



glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To  
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies  
 at - ing light; To serve us all He hum - bly cloaks The  
 hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His



give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.  
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.  
 splen - dor of His might, The splen - dor of His might.  
 glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:  
How great a mystery!  
How strong the tender Christ Child's love!  
No truer friend than He,  
No truer friend than He.

6 He is the key and He the door  
To blessed paradise;  
The angel bars the way no more.  
To God our praises rise,  
To God our praises rise.

△ 7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,  
Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield  
And Spirit evermore;  
We praise You evermore.

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## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

*Psalm 124:8*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** In this season of penitence and reflection, let us think of our unworthiness and confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, asking for His merciful forgiveness.

**C** God Almighty, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son, our Emmanuel, to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

### Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

### Opening Collect

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You came to earth in lowliness of heart to seek and save the lost. In this season of repentance and prayer, make us ready to prepare Your way with sincere devotion that reflects Your humble service. By Your Holy Spirit, grant us a sense of peace and renewed dedication to live as faithful and courageous people, so that we welcome You with joyful hearts and hope-filled lives. This we ask in Your wonderful name.

**C** Amen.



**First Reading**

*Judges 6:11–16*

**P** A reading from Judges, the sixth chapter.

<sup>11</sup>Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. <sup>12</sup>And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” <sup>13</sup>And Gideon said to him, “Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” <sup>14</sup>And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” <sup>15</sup>And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” <sup>16</sup>And the LORD said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

*Psalm 85*

**P** LORD, You were favorable to Your land; You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**C** **You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.**

**P** You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger.

**C** **Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us!**

- P** Will You be angry with us forever?
- C** **Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?**
- P** Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?
- C** **Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.**
- P** 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.
- C** **Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.**
- P** Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- C** **Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.**
- P** Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
- C** **Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.**

**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.**

## **Second Reading**

*Micah 5:2, 4–5a*

- P** A reading from Micah, the fifth chapter.

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>And he shall be their peace.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Verse

*Isaiah 11:1–2, 5–6, 9*

**P** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,

**C** **the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.**

**P** Righteousness shall be the belt of His waist, and faithfulness the belt of His loins.

**C** **The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.**

**P** They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain;

**C** **for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.**

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 1:68–75*

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

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

68“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
 for he has visited and redeemed his people  
 69and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
 in the house of his servant David,  
 70as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
 71that we should be saved from our enemies  
 and from the hand of all who hate us;  
 72to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
 and to remember his holy covenant,  
 73the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
 74that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
 might serve him without fear,  
 75in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

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

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

Hymn

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

LSB 352



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'  
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send  
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,  
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head  
That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith,  
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again  
As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face,  
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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## Sermon

## Catechism

## *The Third Article*

**C** 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.

**P** What does this mean?

**C** I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

**In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.**

**In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.**

**On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.**

**This is most certainly true.**



## Hymn

## “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

LSB 770



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor-rows share?  
Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

*Tune and text: Public domain*

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Almighty God, we lift up our hearts in gratitude to You, and for all Your loving kindness we bless Your holy name. For life and health, for love and friendship, and for the knowledge of Your grace and truth which shapes our lives,

**C** we praise You, O God, and ask Your blessing.

**P** For the wonder of this holy season, and for all things true and honorable, just and pure, lovely and gracious,

**C** we praise You, O God, and ask Your blessing.

**P** For the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord, for His sacrifice and service, and for His obedience unto death, even death on a cross,

**C** we praise You, O God, and ask Your blessing.

**P** For His glorious resurrection and ascension to Your right hand, for His kingdom and everlasting dominion, and for the promise of His return to earth in glory at the final Advent,

**C** we praise You, O God, and ask Your blessing.

**P** For the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, who is at work in our hearts and our lives, and who unites the hearts of the faithful through the Church throughout the world, for the Means of Grace, and for the fellowship of the redeemed in heaven and on earth,

**C** we praise You, O God, and ask Your blessing.

**P** According to Your mercy, hear and answer the prayers and petitions we bring before You, and grant all that is needed and in accord with Your will. Glory, thanksgiving, and praise be to You, O Father almighty, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

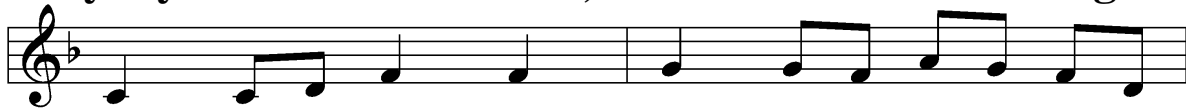
**C** Amen.

### 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.

# Offering

## Offertory Hymn "Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings" LSB 782



1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings  
2 By Your Word You formed cre - a - tion  
3 In His earth - ly life, our Sav - ior  
△ 4 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, may our car - ing



New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies  
Filled with crea - tures large and small; As we tend that  
Knew the care of faith - ful friends; May our deeds of  
Bear the im - print of Your grace; With the Son and



nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.  
end - less trea - sure May our care en - cir - cle all.  
ded - i - ca - tion Of - fer love that nev - er ends.  
Ho - ly Spir - it, Praise be Yours in ev - 'ry place!

### *Refrain*



Lord, we pray that we, Your peo - ple Who Your gifts un - num - bered claim,



Through the shar - ing of Your bless - ings May bring glo - ry to Your name.

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## Advent Antiphon

**P** O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

**C** Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

## Hymn

## “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357 *sts. ref, 6*

6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us  
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y  
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*Tune and text: Public domain*

## Advent Antiphon

- P** O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:
- C** Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.

## Hymn

## “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357 *sts. ref, 7*

7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the  
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -  
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

*Refrain*  
Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*Tune and text: Public domain*

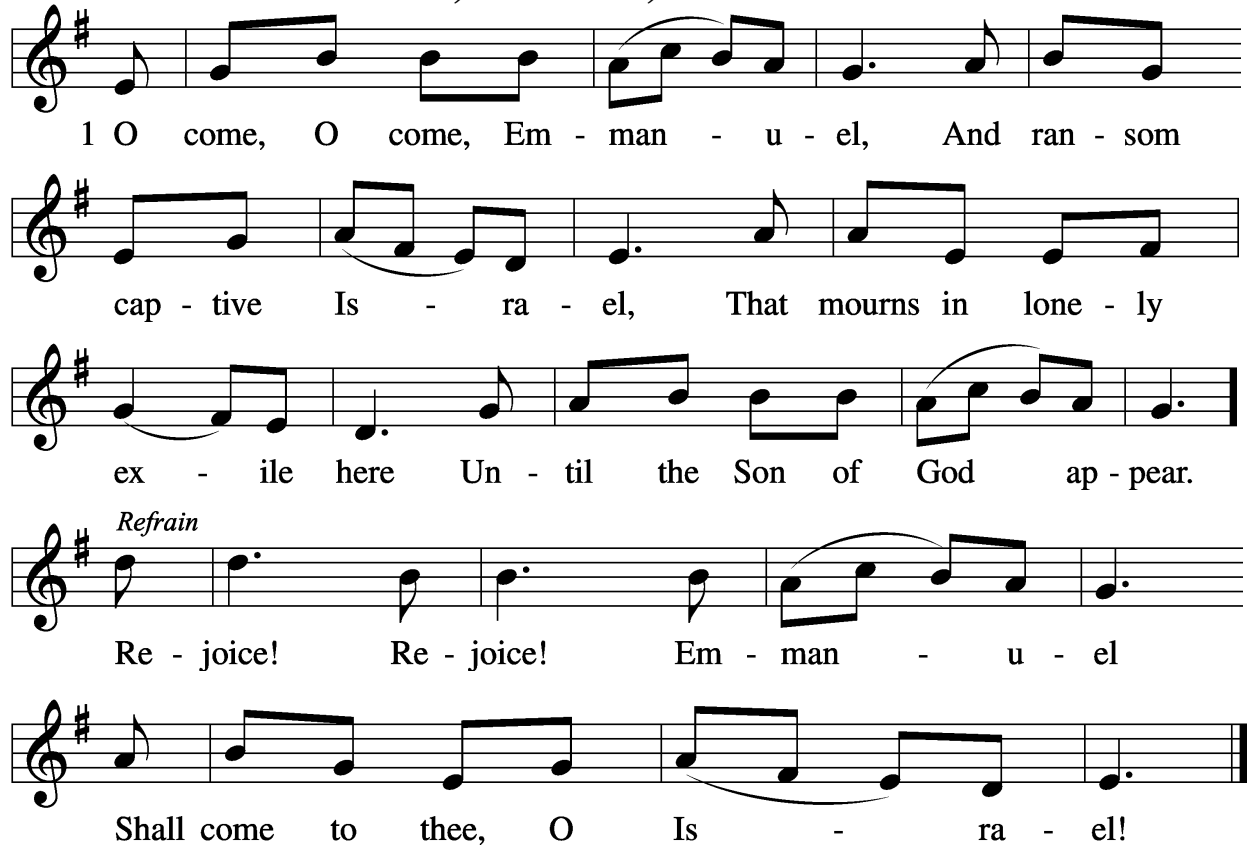
## Advent Antiphon

- P** O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior:
- C** Come and save us, O Lord our God.

## Hymn

## “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357 *sts. 1, ref*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

*Tune and text: Public domain*

## Prayer

**P** Let us pray.

O Lord, grant us Your grace in this present age to live with confidence and courage as we look for the fullness of Your coming among us in all of Your glory and power at the end of time. By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, lead us and guide us through our days until at last we join with saints and angels in endless praise around Your heavenly throne. This we ask through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Blessing

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

**C** Amen.

## Hymn

### “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

LSB 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the  
2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot  
3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the  
4 Flung wide the portals of your heart; Make it a  
5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to



King of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing  
is humility, His kingly crown is holly  
ruler is confessed! O peaceful hearts and happy  
temple set apart From earthly use for heaven's em-  
Thee; here, Lord, abide! O enter with Thy grace di-



near; The Savior of the world is here. Life and sal-  
ness, His scepter, pity in distress. The end of  
homes To whom this King in triumph comes! The cloudless  
ploy, Adorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your  
vine; Thy face of mercy on me shine. Thy Holy



vation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.  
Sovereign enter in And new and nobler life begin.  
Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.



To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.  
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.  
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.  
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!  
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

## **Acknowledgments**

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Immediately following tonight's Service, there will be an Optional service of Holy Communion. It will last approximately 15 minutes. If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper, please move towards the front of the sanctuary. If you do not plan to stay to receive the Lord's Supper, please continue with fellowship and conversation in the narthex or fellowship hall.

## **Serving Our Lord in His House Today:**

Pastor:	Rev. Bert Thompson
Organist:	Linda Ecker
Elder:	Joe Engel

## **You Shall Defeat Them as One Man**

### **As We Gather**

A tradition carried out in some places during the weeks before Christmas is the "Secret Santa," in which a person leaves little gifts or notes of greeting and encouragement for someone else in a mysterious way. The "Secret Santa" does not reveal his or her identity until Christmas has come. The person who received the gifts may find that the giver was someone totally unexpected, even unlikely. In the season of Advent, we find ourselves awaiting God's unlikely Messiah. He comes to earth not in power or splendor but in humility and simplicity. God's plan of salvation is unexpected and unlikely and amazing. With eager hearts, we anticipate the arrival of our humble Lord and rejoice in the wonder of His coming.