

# Third Sunday in Advent

Divine Service I

## Hymn of Invocation "Arise, O Christian People"

LSB 354



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -  
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the  
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on  
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your  
best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this  
high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty  
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The  
heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The  
soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That  
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from  
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -  
heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -  
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.  
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.  
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.  
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## Exhortation

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

## Confession of Sins

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

## Absolution

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## Introit

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

Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\*

**The Lord | is at hand.**

LORD, you were favorable | to your land;\*  
**you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.**

You forgave the iniquity of your | people;\*

**you covered | all their sin.**

Will you not revive | us again,\*

**that your people may re- | jice in you?**

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.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

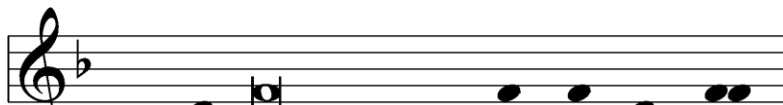
Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*

**again I will | say, Rejoice.**

Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\*

**The Lord | is at hand.**

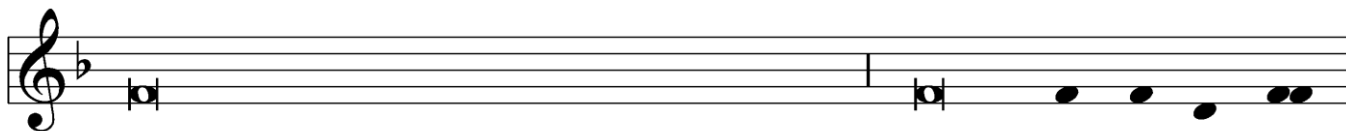
## Kyrie



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



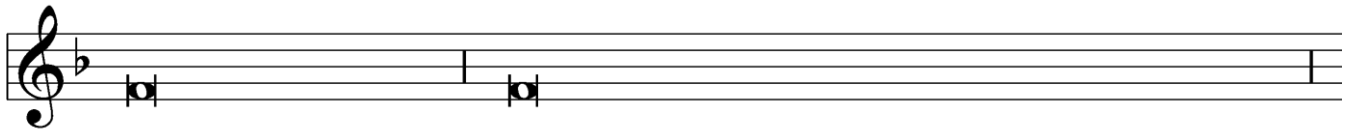
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



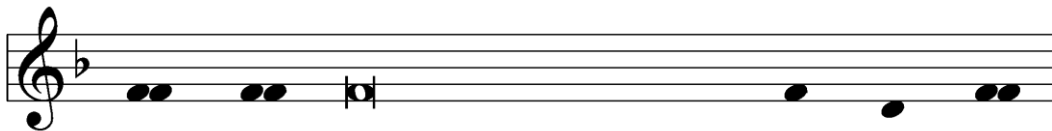
**A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



**C** A - men.

## Salutation



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

## Collect

**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** A - men.

## Old Testament

*Isaiah 40:1–8*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Choir** "The Moon with Borrowed Light"

*The moon with borrowed light gives witness to the sun,  
discretely fading with the night when morning has begun.  
John's borrowed light was drawn from heaven's vibrant rays,  
his life a witness to the dawn of Christ's approaching blaze.*

*When temple Levites asked what title did John claim,  
he said he had a single task, a single goal and aim:  
to redirect their sight beyond what he had done  
to Christ the pure and primal light that lightens ev'ryone.*

*The clouds of sin yet mask earth's tangled, stubbly ground,  
and O how many hearts still ask where God's clear path is found.  
For borrowed light we pray so we may be a sign  
that points to Christ, the truth, the way, the life, the light divine.*

**Epistle**

*1 Corinthians 4:1–5*

<sup>1</sup>This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup>Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. <sup>3</sup>But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup>I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. <sup>5</sup>Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

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

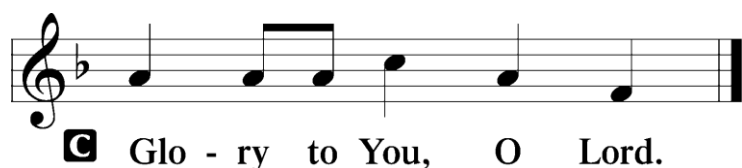
**C Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia and Verse



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.

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

## Gospel

*Matthew 11:2–11*

<sup>2</sup>Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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



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

**Hymn**

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

LSB 347



1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus  
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall





sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”  
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

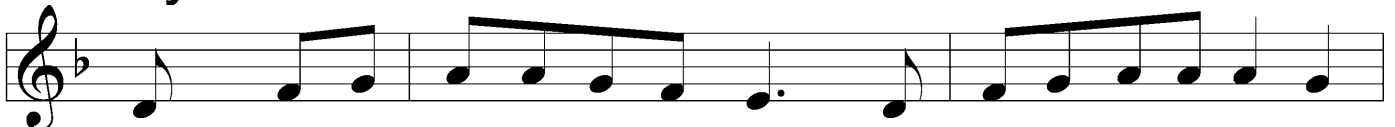
**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

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.

### Prayer of the Church

#### Offertory



**C** What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e - fits to

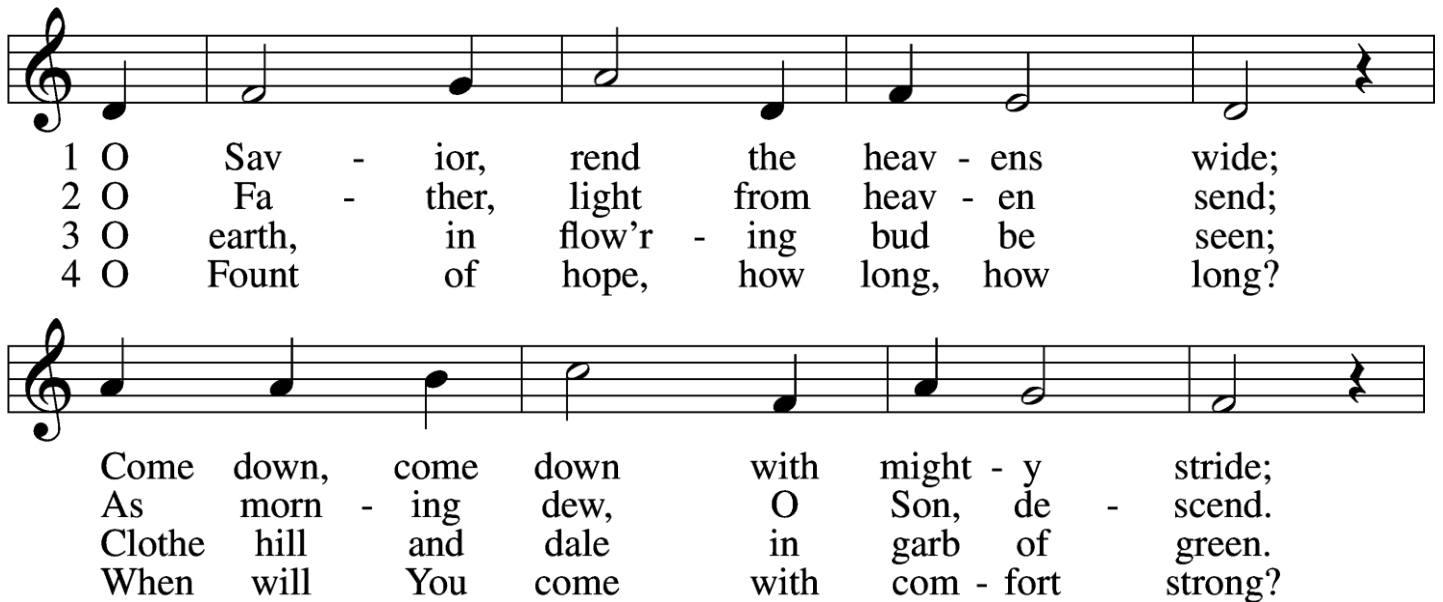


me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will  
 call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -  
 va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
 vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the  
 courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

**Hymn**

"O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide"

LSB 355



1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;  
 2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;  
 3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;  
 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?

Come down, come down with might - y stride;  
 As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.  
 Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
 When will You come with com - fort strong?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;  
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:  
Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,  
O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.  
Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.  
Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,  
When will our hearts behold Your dawn?  
O Sun, arise; without Your light  
We grope in gloom and dark of night.

6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
O come, lead us with mighty hand  
From exile to our promised land.

7 There shall we all our praises bring  
And sing to You, our Savior King;  
There shall we laud You and adore  
Forever and forevermore.

Tune: Public domain  
Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003026

## Lord's Prayer

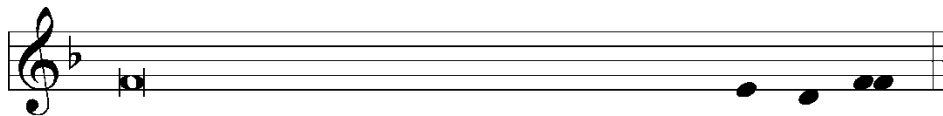
**G** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses

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.

## Collect

## 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 ✠ give you peace.



**G** A - men.

## Closing Hymn

## "Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the treasures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne burst, grace ring  
And The To en - rich With  
ev i - Thy  
- ron the be  
'ry fet - hum - lov  
voice a ters ble ed  
song. yield. poor. name.

Tune and text: Public domain

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2020 Concordia Publishing House.