

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Long-awaited Savior, you are the promise of the prophets, and we are witnesses to your work—vision, movement, healing, music, new life, good news. Enlighten and enliven us, send us out to spread the word so that all may see and hear and know and believe that you are the coming of God, the Messiah. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"Allegretto in G Major"

Georg Goltermann, 1824-98

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Christmas Joy Offering

Stephanie Huddleston

Introit "Wait for the Lord"

Jacques Bethier, 1984

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord, be strong; take heart!

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The O'Reilly Family

Leader: The light glowing from our Advent wreath is burning brighter.

This radiance warms our hearts and fills us with joy! The Lord has done great things for us. Let us rejoice.

People: “May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.”

(lighting of the candle)

Leader: Light three candles, see them glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How three candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God’s day.

People: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Leader: Let us pray:

People: Dear God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things. Help us to hear your promise in this Advent season, that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit’s gift of joy. And may our spirits be kept sound at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn**

“When God Delivered Israel”

#73

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

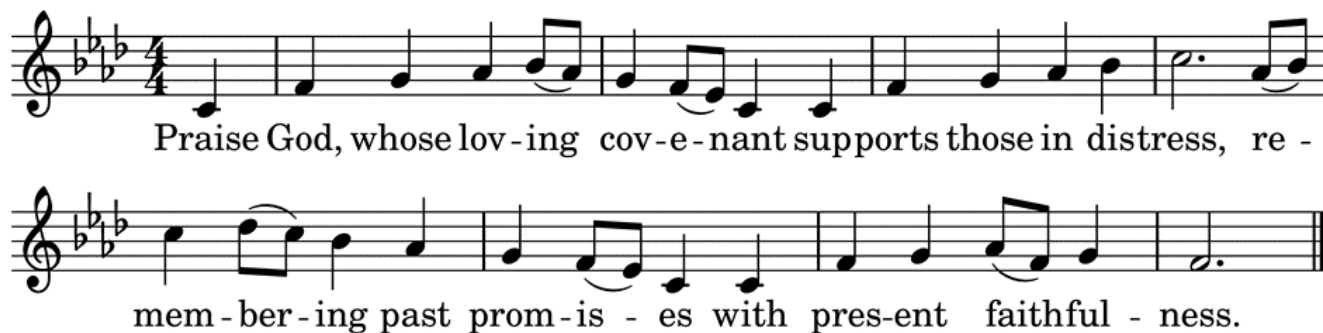
***Prayer of Confession** *(read in unison)*

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow your holy way. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn** “My Soul Gives Glory to My God” (v. 5)

#99



Praise God, whose lov-ing cov-e-nant supports those in distress, re -
mem-ber-ing past prom-is - es with pres-ent faithful - ness.

Text: Miriam Therese Winter, 1979; rev. 1987

Text © 1978, 1987 Medical Mission Sisters

Used by Permission.

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

Choir Anthem “Hark, A Thrilling Voice”

Ian Higginson, 2005

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding; “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say,
“Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day.”

So when next he comes in glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,
May he with his mercy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit, while unending ages run.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon “He Who Is to Come”

Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

*Affirmation of Faith

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn

“Prepare the Way, O Zion”

#106

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

*Response

“Savior of the Nations, Come” (v. 4)

#102

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, in - carnate Word!

To the ho - ly Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523;
English trans. stanza 4, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 2006 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress
Used by Permission.

*Prayer of Dedication

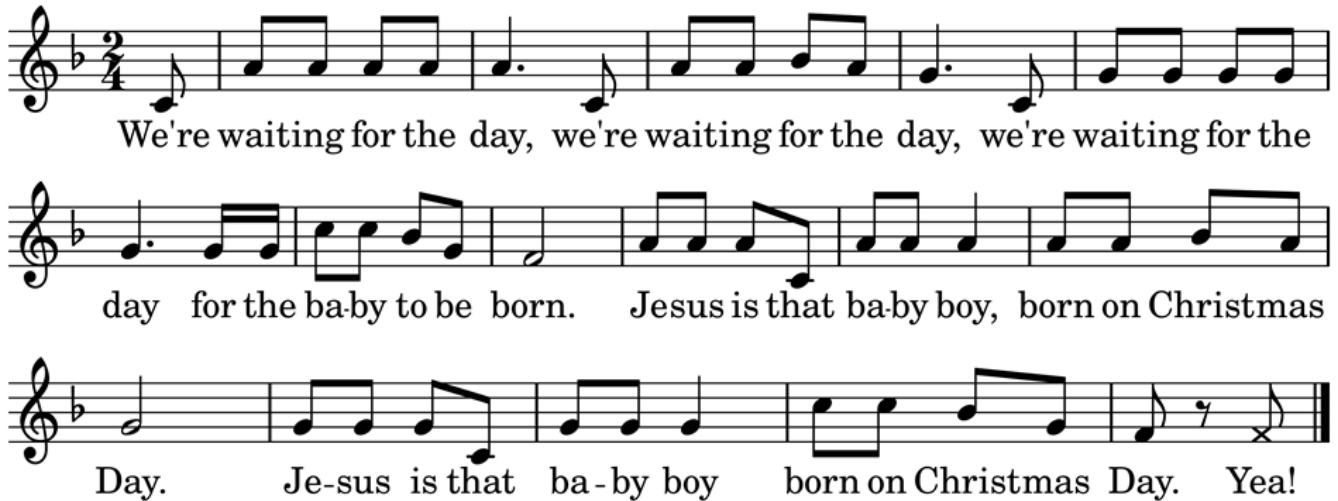
The Sending of God's People

*Closing Hymn "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

#146

*Charge and Blessing

*Congregational Response "Advent Song"



We're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the day, we're waiting for the
day for the baby to be born. Jesus is that ba-by boy, born on Christmas
Day. Je-sus is that ba-by boy born on Christmas Day. Yea!

Words and Music: Thomas & Joyce Lloyd

*Postlude "Tocatta in F Major" J.S. Bach, 1685-1750
as played by Robert Quinney on our organ April 14, 2004

Pastors: Rev. Désirée Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Liturgist: Paul Oswalt

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Thomas Lloyd

Acolyte: Devin Griggs, Darren Cox