

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 15, 2024

PRELUDE

*Prelude on "Richmond" (Hark the Glad Sound)
Prelude on "Richmond"*

*H. Willan
F. Peeters*

GATHERING SONG

Make Room

Maher, Hall

WELCOME

Paula Weiss

OPENING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With Thy beloved name.

Text and music: Public domain

10:45 *My Soul Magnifies the Lord* Tomlin, Carson

OPENING

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Pastor Penny
(Matthew 28:19b)*

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS

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

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

Brief moment for self-examination and silent confession.

Pastor: Together we confess...

People: Merciful Father, I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before You of all sins. I have lived as if You did not matter and as if I mattered most. I have not honored Your name as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let Your love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. I repent of my sins, and ask You of Your grace to forgive my sins, strengthen my faith, and embolden my works in accord with Your will.

Pastor: 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 forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: As we are making our hearts ready, we light the third candle of Advent, remembering the light of God's glory which shone upon the shepherds on the hillside.

Left: *An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them,*

Right: *and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them:*

ALL: **Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;**

Left: *for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

Right: *And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.*

ALL: **And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: Glory to God in the Highest! Glory to God in the Highest!**

VERSE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* LSB 357 (v. 6)

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text and music: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: **(do not print or project)** 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.

People: Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD***Zephaniah 3:14–20***

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

Philippians 4:4–7

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

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. (Philippians 4:4)

8:15 - ALLELUIA

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

LSB 156

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 7th chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." ²⁴When John's messengers had gone, 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? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." ²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

A CHRISTMAS CREED *(from Colossians 1:15-20)*

[We believe that Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Paula Weiss

GOD'S MESSAGE FOR YOU

Seeing is Believing

Pastor Patton

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP PADS

Everyone, please sign the friendship pad, then pass the pad from the outside aisle to the inside aisle.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. T. Manor

Sanctuary Choir

PRAISES AND PRAYERS

Pastor Penny

CHRIST COMES TO US IN HOLY COMMUNION

† **8:15** **THE PREFACE** (We Begin the Order of the Sacrament)

LSB 160

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: (do not print or project) It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

THE SANCTUS (Our God is Holy)

LSB 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

LSB 162

Pastor: As long as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgement. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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 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.

THE PAX DOMINI (We extend the Lord's Peace to one another)

LSB 163

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you. Amen.

THE AGNUS DEI (The Lamb of God takes away our sin)

LSB 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION Holy Communion is offered in individual cup format and are available on the stand BEFORE you come to the altar. *The lighter colored individual cups are a non-alcoholic wine.* All who believe in the special meaning of Holy Communion are invited.

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined, To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.
- 2 Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.

- 3 Gentle Mary laide her child Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

Text and music: Public domain

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

LSB 636 (vv. 1-4, 6)

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendor, There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet Him, And with loving rev'rence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before Him, Saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, That I nevermore will leave You.
- 3 He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered, None could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven, And His blood, for you once given.
- 4 Now in faith I humbly ponder Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless Though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation, Pledge and seal of my salvation!
- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven, For our good, Your glory given.

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Jesus Come, the Heavens Adoring

LSB 353

- 1 Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption, Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus comes again in mercy When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.
- 3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness, Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
- 4 Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us, Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comforts us in failing years.

Text and music: Public domain

Entrust Your Days and Burdens*LSB 754*

- 1 Entrust your days and burdens To God's most loving hand;
He cares for you while ruling The sky, the sea, the land.
For He who guides the tempests Along their thund'rous ways
Will find for you a pathway and guide you all your days.
- 2 Rely on God your Savior And find your life secure.
Make His work your foundation That your work may endure.
No anxious thought, no worry, No self-tormenting care
Can win your Father's favor; His heart is moved by prayer.
- 3 Take heart, have hope, my spirit, And do not be dismayed;
God helps in ev'ry trial And makes you unafraid.
Await His time with patience Through darkest hours of night
Until the sun you hoped for delights your eager sight.
- 4 Leave all to His direction; His wisdom rules for you
In ways to rouse your wonder At all His love can do.
Soon He, His promise keeping, With wonder-working pow'rs
Will banish from your spirit What gave you troubled hours.
- 5 O blessed heir of heaven, You'll hear the song resound
Of endless jubilation When you with life are crowned.
In your right hand your maker Will place the victor's palm,
And you will thank Him gladly With heaven's joyful psalm.
- 6 Our hands and feet, Lord, strengthen; With joy our spirits bless
Until we see the ending Of all our life's distress.
And so throughout our lifetime Keep us within Your care
And at our end then bring us To heav'n to praise You there.

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10:45***Come to the River
Waymaker****Brown, Barrett, Moore, Dalton
Kaiu, Egbu***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE*****Nunc Dimittis****LSB 165*

Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:
A light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel.
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.

10:45

Stronger**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: We give thanks to You, gracious Father, that Your grace is timeless and Your mercy is for all people. As we heed the call of Christ and follow, strengthen us in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

8:15

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

LSB 803

1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and Heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine;
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we b grace are Thine!

Text and music: Public domain

10:45

Battle Belongs

Wickham, Johnson

POSTLUDE

Sobaje

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (HYMN TO JOY)

arr. M.

EXIT SONG

My Soul Magnifies the Lord

Tomlin, Carson