

# *“Every Heart Prepare”*

## Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025 + 11:00 am

### MORNING SONG

*(non-communion)*

(\* = please stand)

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

#### \* SHARING OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD

#### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**C: Amen.**

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

*(We pause for a time of silent reflection and confession)*

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.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

#### \* PSALM *(Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4)*

A: Rejoice in the Lord always;

**C: Again I will say, rejoice!**

A: I will hope continually

**C: And will praise You yet more and more.**

A: My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts,

**C: Of Your deeds of salvation all the day for their number is past my knowledge.**

A: With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come;

**C: I will remind them of Your righteousness, Yours alone.**

A: O God, from my youth You have taught me,

**C: And I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.**

A: So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

**C: Until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.**

A: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

**C: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A: Rejoice in the Lord always;

**C: Again I will say, rejoice!**

#### \* SONG OF PRAISE #357:1-3 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

## **\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

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.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING:** Isaiah 35: 1–10

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE READING:** James 5:7–11

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **\* SONG OF RESPONSE #357:4-7** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

### **\* HOLY GOSPEL:** Matthew 11:2–15

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**C: Glory be to Thee, O LORD.** *(After the reading the following is said. . .)*

P: This is Gospel of the LORD.

**C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

## **\* 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.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **BIBLE MESSAGE**

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

## **\* PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*(Petitions conclude with “Lord, in Your mercy,” and then all respond with “Hear our prayer.”)*

## **\* THE 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.**

## **\* ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **\* BLESSING**

A: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## **\* CLOSING SONG**

## POSTLUDE

### SERVING TODAY (12/14)

**Presiding Minister (P):** Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann

**Preacher & Assisting (A):** Rev. Daniel Maske

**Lay Ministers:** Arlan Wendzel, Matt Heintz

**Music Director:** Jane Connon

**Ushers:** Jesse Hogue

**Greeters:** Dave & Linda Johnson

**Lectors:** Dave Johnson

**Children's Message:** Kathy Taylor

### SERVING SUNDAY (12/21)

*Rev. Dr. Paul R. Naumann*

*Rev. Daniel Maske*

*Arlan Wendzel, Matt Heintz*

*Jane Connon*

*Jesse Hogue*

*Sue Keltsch, Dar Swift*

*Jesse Hogue*

*Greg Johnson*

### **Isaiah 35: 1–10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup> then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup> And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. <sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### **James 5:7–11**

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup> Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

### **Matthew 11:2–15**

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. <sup>12</sup> From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup> For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup> and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup> He who has ears to hear, let him hear.