

**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 15, 2024**

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Hymns are found in the blue *Hymnal 1982* (the 'S' numbers are in the front!) or the red and black *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* which can be found in your pew.

The service begins in quiet and prayer.

**Prelude:** *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659*

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**Processional Hymn 59:** *Hark a Thrilling*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*People* **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Kyrie, Hymn S-96:** *Lord, have mercy*

(10:00 am only)

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The First Lesson:** *Zephaniah 3:14-20*

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that

you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Canticle:** *The First Song of Isaiah*



**Choir** Surely, it is <sup>1</sup>God who <sup>1</sup>saves me; \*

I will trust in <sup>1</sup>him and <sup>1</sup>not be a'fraid.

**ALL** For the Lord is my stronghold and my <sup>1</sup>sure de'fense, \*  
and <sup>1</sup>he will be my <sup>1</sup>Savior.

**Choir** Therefore you shall draw <sup>1</sup>water with re'joicing \*  
— <sup>1</sup>from the <sup>1</sup>springs of sal'vation.

**ALL** And on that <sup>1</sup>day you shall <sup>1</sup>say, \*  
Give thanks to the <sup>1</sup>Lord and <sup>1</sup>call upon his <sup>1</sup>Name;

**Choir** Make his deeds known a <sup>1</sup>mong the <sup>1</sup>peoples; \*  
see that they re'member that his <sup>1</sup>Name is ex'alted.

**ALL** Sing the praises of the Lord, for <sup>1</sup>he has done <sup>1</sup>great things, \*  
and this is <sup>1</sup>known in <sup>1</sup>all the <sup>1</sup>world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, <sup>1</sup>ring out your <sup>1</sup>joy, \*

for the great one in the mid'st of you is the <sup>1</sup>Holy <sup>1</sup>One of <sup>1</sup>Israel.

**The Second Lesson:** *Philippians 4:4-7*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence Hymn 438:** *Tell out my Soul*

*Reader* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Gospel:** *Luke 3:7-18*

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount

prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*Reader* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

**The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

*Please stand or kneel*

Sisters and brothers, as we joyfully await the glorious coming of the Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church, our community, and the world. *A brief silence.* O God, your prophet John the Baptist calls us to self-reflection and repentance in this season of preparation for the coming of your Son. Help us daily to die to sin and show us the path to newness of life.

*People*     **God of joy, hear our prayer.**

You have given us uncountable talents and provided us with great bounty. May we use our talents for good purpose. Give us the gift of generosity and the joy and freedom that come with it. Even if we are not naturally disposed to giving, help us to grow in understanding that the life we prize, filled with joy and spiritual depth, is closely tied to giving generously out of our abundance with thankful hearts. **God of joy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for St. Andrew's Church, that we may continue to be a sign of your loving presence and hope. Help us support and encourage those who are facing painful and uncertain times. Use us as vehicles of your grace and love in the world. **God of joy, hear our prayer.**

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace.

**God of joy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble, remembering especially those on our prayer list, and all whose struggles are known to you alone. *Pause* Grant them skilled physicians and compassionate caregivers, and show us how we can best minister to them in their need. **God of joy, hear our prayer.**

In a moment of silence, let us pray for those who are dear to us. *Silence* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as he loves us. **God of joy, hear our prayer.**

O God, our help in ages, our hope in years to come: We remember Sue Griffin, who died this week; Martha J. Ford and John R. Mack, in whose memory the flowers are given this morning; and all those we love but see no longer. *Silence* As we remember the lives of all your saints, inspire us by their witness and support us by their communion as we continue in your word that will not pass away.

**God of joy, hear our prayer.**

God of joy and exultation, you strengthen what is weak, you enrich the poor, and you give hope to those who live in fear. Look upon our needs this day. Make us grateful for the good news of salvation and keep us faithful in your service until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives for ever and ever. **Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*     **And also with you.**

**Offertory Anthem:** *Creator of the Stars of Night* Daniel Nelson (b. 1965)  
The St. Andrew's Adult Choir

*Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light, O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call. When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, chosen mother mild. At your great Name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow; all things on earth with one accord, like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord. To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, three in one, praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.*

**Children's Entrance Hymn 67:** *Comfort, Comfort*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**     Eucharistic Prayer B

*Celebrant*     *People*  
The Lord be with you.     And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*     *People*  
Lift up your hearts.     We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*The Celebrant offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ.*

**Sanctus S-130:** *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

*The people stand or kneel as the Celebrant gives thanks for the reconciling work of Christ through his passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.*

*Celebrant* Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*People*     **We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic prayer.*

*Celebrant* By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit of all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,  
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

**Fraction Anthem S-152:** *Christ our Passover*

*Please come forward and stand or kneel at the rail. The priest will place the bread in your outstretched palm (Consecrated rice wafers are available for those with wheat allergies - simply ask the priest). You may dip (intinct) the bread in the wine in the small cup held by the Eucharistic minister. Alternatively, you may indicate your desire to drink from the common chalice by consuming the bread and remaining at the rail after the Eucharistic minister passes; another Eucharistic minister will bring the large chalice over for you to drink from directly. Please know that Christ is fully present in both the bread and the wine - there is no requirement to receive both. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward, cross your hands over your chest, and receive a blessing.*

**Communion Voluntary:** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* Vicki Hancock Wright  
The St. Andrew's Cherub Choir

*Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set your people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Come, O come, Emmanuel! Come, come O Jesus, come, O come, Emmanuel!*

**Communion Hymn, LEVAS 14:** *Soon and Very Soon*

*When Lay Eucharistic Visitors are taking Holy Communion to those unable to be with us in person, we say the following*

*Celebrant* In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

*People*     **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

**Post-Communion Thanksgiving**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People*     **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

**Closing Hymn 54:** *Savior of the Nations Come*

**Dismissal**

*The young people are invited to come forward during the hymn to participate in the dismissal.*

*Young people* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*     **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Partita Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland: Toccata & Variation 6* Hugo Distler (1908–1942)

Oliver Steissberg, Organ