

# *Gaudete*

## *The Third Sunday in Advent*

December 13, 2020



**Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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### 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!
  - 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; Make straight the way for God  
within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.
  - 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away Like flow'rs that wither and decay.
  - 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.
  - △ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.
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*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**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 unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** 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.

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father, **C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

### **Introit**

Daughter of Zion,

**Behold, thy salvation cometh;**

The LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard,

**And ye shall have gladness of heart.**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

**Thou that leadest Joseph like a flock.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Daughter of Zion,

**Behold, thy salvation cometh;**

The LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard,

**And ye shall have gladness of heart.**

### **Kyrie**

*LSB 186*

**C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And with thy spirit.**

**P** Let us pray: Lord, we beseech Thee : give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Thy gracious visitation; who liveth and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost : ever one God, world without end.

**C Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 40:1–11*

<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. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" <sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## 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

*LSB 190*

**C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 11:2–11*

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

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup>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 be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

### **345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

- 1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! “Christ is near,” we hear it say.  
“Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!”
- 2 Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.
- 3 See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav’n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv’n;
- 4 So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with His mercy And with words of love draw near.

△5 Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!

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### **Sermon**

### **Offertory**

*LSB 192*

**☐ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

**[ Offering ]**

## Prayer of the Church

### Preface

*LSB 194*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** We lift them up unto the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, 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 saying:

### Sanctus

*LSB 195*

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

### Lord's Prayer

*LSB 196*

**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 Words of Our Lord

*LSB 197*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the

disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### **Pax Domini**

*LSB 197*

**☐** The peace of the Lord be with you always.      **☑** Amen.

### **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 198*

**☑** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

### **Distribution**

#### **556 Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice**

- 1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,  
And with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,  
Proclaim the wonders God has done,  
How His right arm the vict’ry won. What price our ransom cost Him!
- 2 Fast bound in Satan’s chains I lay; Death brooded darkly o’er me.  
Sin was my torment night and day; In sin my mother bore me.  
But daily deeper still I fell;  
My life became a living hell, So firmly sin possessed me.
- 3 My own good works all came to naught, No grace or merit gaining;  
Free will against God’s judgment fought, Dead to all good remaining.  
My fears increased till sheer despair  
Left only death to be my share; The pangs of hell I suffered.

- 4 But God had seen my wretched state Before the world's foundation,  
And mindful of His mercies great, He planned for my salvation.  
He turned to me a father's heart;  
He did not choose the easy part But gave His dearest treasure.
- 5 God said to His beloved Son: "It's time to have compassion.  
Then go, bright jewel of My crown, And bring to all salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set them free;  
Slay bitter death for them that they May live with You forever."
- 6 The Son obeyed His Father's will, Was born of virgin mother;  
And God's good pleasure to fulfill, He came to be my brother.  
His royal pow'r disguised He bore;  
A servant's form, like mine, He wore To lead the devil captive.
- 7 To me He said: "Stay close to Me, I am your rock and castle.  
Your ransom I Myself will be; For you I strive and wrestle.  
For I am yours, and you are Mine,  
And where I am you may remain; The foe shall not divide us.
- 8 "Though he will shed My precious blood, Me of My life bereaving,  
All this I suffer for your good; Be steadfast and believing.  
Life will from death the vict'ry win;  
My innocence shall bear your sin, And you are blest forever.
- 9 "Now to My Father I depart, From earth to heav'n ascending,  
And, heav'nly wisdom to impart, The Holy Spirit sending;  
In trouble He will comfort you  
And teach you always to be true And into truth shall guide you.
- 10 "What I on earth have done and taught Guide all your life and teaching;  
So shall the kingdom's work be wrought And honored in your preaching.  
But watch lest foes with base alloy  
The heav'nly treasure should destroy; This final word I leave you."

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## 819 Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good

- 1 Sing praise to God, the highest good, The author of creation,  
The God of love who understood Our need for His salvation.  
With healing balm our souls He fills  
And ev'ry faithless murmur stills: To God all praise and glory!
  
- 2 What God's almighty pow'r has made, In mercy He is keeping.  
By morning glow or evening shade His eye is never sleeping.  
Within the kingdom of His might  
All things are just and good and right: To God all praise and glory!
  
- 3 We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us.  
Our Savior saw our helplessness And came with peace to cheer us.  
For this we thank and praise the Lord,  
Who is by one and all adored: To God all praise and glory!
  
- 4 He never shall forsake His flock, His chosen generation;  
He is their refuge and their rock, Their peace and their salvation.  
As with a mother's tender hand,  
He leads His own, His chosen band: To God all praise and glory!
  
- 5 All who confess Christ's holy name, Give God the praise and glory.  
Let all who know His pow'r proclaim Aloud the wondrous story.  
Cast ev'ry idol from its throne,  
For God is God, and He alone: To God all praise and glory!

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### 349 Hark the Glad Sound

- 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 belovèd name.

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### 332 Savior of the Nations, Come

- 1 Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood, By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh— Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.
- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man, His heroic course began.
- 5 God the Father was His source, Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down, Back then to His throne and crown.
- 6 For You are the Father's Son Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.

△8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

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## Nunc Dimittis

*LSB 199*

**☩** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## Thanksgiving

*LSB 200*

**☩** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**☩** and His mercy endureth forever.

**☩** Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same 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. **☩** Amen.

**☩** The Lord be with you.

**☩** And with thy spirit.

## Benedicamus

*LSB 202*

**☩** Bless we the Lord.

**☩** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 202

**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, amen, amen.

## 797 Praise the Almighty

- 1 Praise the Almighty, my soul, adore Him!  
Yes, I will laud Him until death;  
With songs and anthems I come before Him  
As long as He allows me breath.  
From Him my life and all things came;  
Bless, O my soul, His holy name.  
Alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 2 Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;  
Earthborn they are and soon decay.  
Vain are their counsels at life's last portal,  
When the dark grave engulfs its prey.  
Since mortals can no help afford,  
Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 3 Blessèd, oh, blessèd are they forever  
Whose help is from the Lord Most High,  
Whom from salvation can nothing sever,  
And who in hope to Christ draw nigh.  
To all who trust in Him, our Lord  
Will aid and counsel now afford.  
Alleluia, alleluia!
  
- 4 Penitent sinners, for mercy crying,  
Pardon and peace from Him obtain;  
Ever the wants of the poor supplying,  
Their faithful God He will remain.  
He helps His children in distress,  
The widows and the fatherless.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

△5 Praise, all you people, the name so holy  
Of Him who does such wondrous things!  
All that has being, to praise Him solely,  
With happy heart its amen sings.  
Children of God, with angel host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!  
Alleluia, alleluia!

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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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## **THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT (*Gaudete*)**

John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord – The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord . . ." (Isaiah 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "all flesh is grass" (Isaiah 40:6). Now He asks from prison, "Are you the one who is to come . . .?" (Matthew 11:2). Jesus' works bear witness that He the Christ. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Corinthians 4:1) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

This is the kind of King Christ is: He desires to help poor wretched people in body and in soul. Apart from Him, the world with all its strength and methods is no help. This is good and happy news! For Our Lord's help is this: Christ pays for our sin, and through His suffering He redeems us from eternal death. It is His kingdom and His ministry to preach this Gospel to poor sinners. That is His goal. For to the great and holy He does not come, for they do not desire His Gospel.

– Martin Luther

### **The Meaning of *Gaudete***

The Third Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as *Gaudete*, which is the first Latin word of the Historic Introit assigned to this Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice"

(*Gaudete in Domino semper* = Rejoice in the Lord always).

This Sunday is a brief time of rejoicing during the somber reflection of Advent. The liturgical color for *Gaudete* and *Laetare* (Lent 4) are rose and the altar traditionally has roses placed on it. This all reflects the joyful nature of each Sunday's theme compared to their penitential seasons.