# Advent III December 17, 2023

# Confession and Absolution

# 333 Once He Came in Blessing LSB 333



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### Stand

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 Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **©** who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **©** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

# Kneel/Stand

- Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P 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 therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the 
  → Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Stand

# Service of the Word

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IntroitPs. 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: Ps. 85:7

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
    and grant us your sal- | vation.

Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
    for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
    that glory may dwell | in our land.

Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
    and our land will yield its | increase.

Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
    and make his foot- | steps a way.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
    and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
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#### is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,\* and grant us your sal- vation.

### **Pew Edition**

Gloria in Excelsis omitted during Advent

# **Salutation and Collect 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.

Sit

## Old Testament Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. <sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge them,

that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;

my soul shall exult in my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,

and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,

so the Lord  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{God}}$  will cause righteousness and praise

to sprout up before all the nations.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

## Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

#### Stand

### Alleluia and Verse





# Holy Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>19</sup>And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed ISB 206

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,

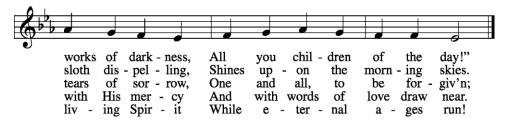
who spoke by the prophets.

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.

Sit

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding LSB 345





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### Sermon

#### Stand

## **Prayer of the Church**

Sit

# Offering

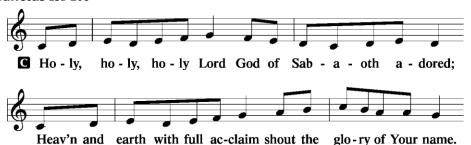
# Service of the Sacrament

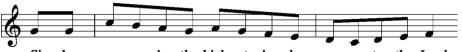
#### Stand

#### Preface LSB 208

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. 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 208





Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;



## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

# Lord's Prayer LSB 209

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.

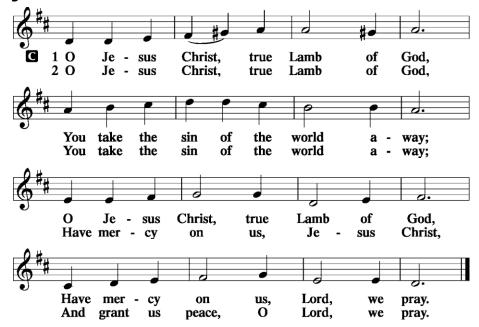
### The Words of Our Lord

- 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 209

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- G Amen.

# Agnus Dei LSB 210

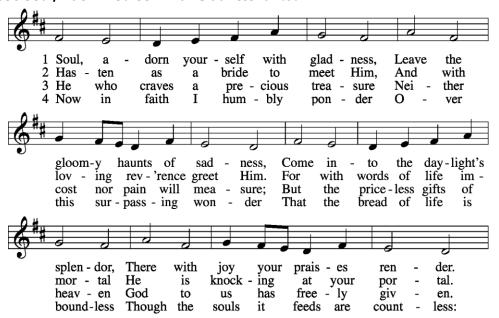


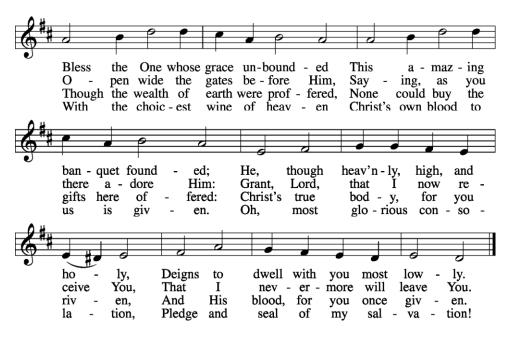
Sit

## Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first.

## 636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness LSB 636





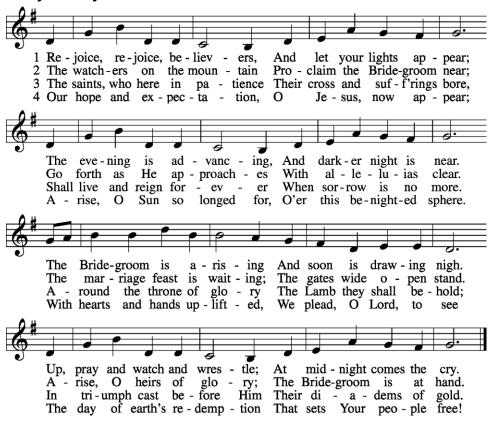
- Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, Truest friend, and dearest treasure, Peace beyond all understanding, Joy into all life expanding: Humbly now, I bow before You; Love incarnate, I adore You; Worthily let me receive You And, so favored, never leave You.
- Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
   Jesus, 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 blessèd food from heaven,
   For our good, Your glory, given.
- Lord, by love and mercy driven,
   You once left Your throne in heaven
   On the cross for me to languish
   And to die in bitter anguish,
   To forego all joy and gladness
   And to shed Your blood in sadness.
   By this blood redeemed and living,
   Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.
- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me gladly here obey You. By Your love I am invited, Be Your love with love requited; By this Supper let me measure,

Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.

Through the gift of grace You give me
As Your quest in heav'n receive me.

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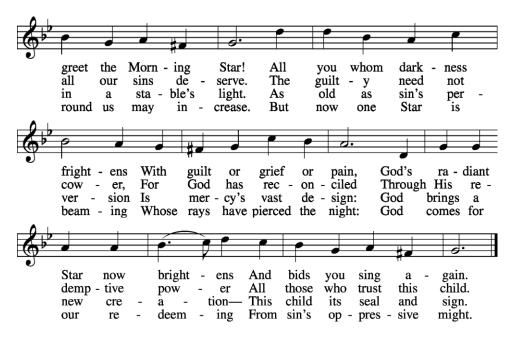
### **515** Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers LSB 515



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## 337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending LSB 337





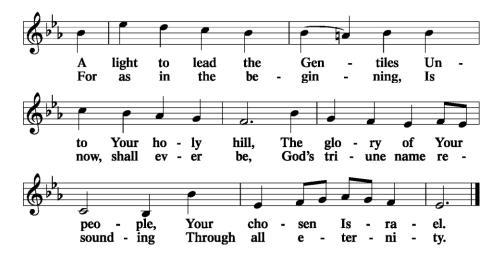
5 God dwells with us in darkness
And makes the night as day;
Yet we resist the brightness
And turn from God away.
But grace does not forsake us,
However far we run.
God claims us still as children
Through Mary's infant Son.

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# Stand

## **Nunc Dimittis LSB 211**





# **Post-Communion Collect**

A 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 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.

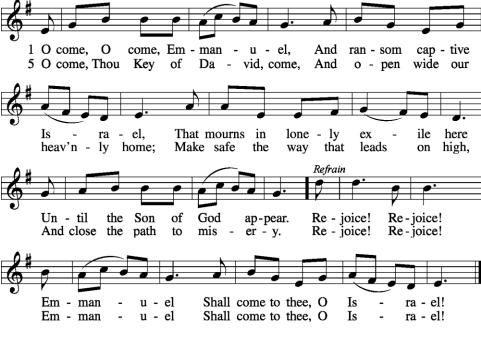
C Amen.

## **Benedicamus and Benediction**

- **A** Let us bless the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.
- The Lord bless you and keep you.
  The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
  The Lord look upon you with favor and 

  → give you peace.
- C Amen.

# **357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** *LSB 357 sts. 1, ref, 5–6*



- ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!
- 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. Refrain

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# **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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