

**The Third Sunday in Advent**  
**December 16-17, 2023**  
**Divine Service, Setting Three, p. 184**

**Prelude**

**Invocation** (*stand*)

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**Confession, and Absolution**

**Introit** *Revive Us Again*

Ps. 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,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\*

**and grant us your sal- | vation.**

**Kyrie**

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**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Collect of the Day**

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P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P 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. **Amen.** (*sit*)

**Old Testament** *The Year of the Lord's Favor*

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 GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

A This is the word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

#### Gradual

Zechariah 9:9a; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.\*

**Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.**

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;\*

**righteous and having sal- | vation.**

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.\*

**From the house of the Lord we | bless you.**

#### Epistle *Benediction*

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.

C **Thanks be to God.**

#### Verse of the Day (*stand*)

Luke 7:27b

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Behold, I send my messenger be- | fore your face,\*  
who will prepare your way be- | fore you.

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

#### Holy Gospel *The Testimony of John the Baptist*

John 1:6-8, 19-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, 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.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.** (*sit*)

**Hymn of the Day** "When All the World Was Cursed" LSB 346, *soloist st. 3*

**Sermon** "What Do You Expect?" John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Apostles' Creed** (*stand*) p. 192

**Offering** (*sit*)

**Offertory** (*stand*) p. 192

**Prayer of the Church** *congregation responds "Hear our prayer"*

**Preface** p. 194

**Sanctus** p. 195

**Lord's Prayer** p. 196

**Words of Institution** p. 197

**Pax Domini**

**Agnus Dei** p. 198

**Distribution** (*sit*) "Hark the Glad Sound" LSB 349

**Nunc Dimittis** (*stand*) p. 199

**Thanksgiving** p. 200

**Salutation and Benedicamus** p. 201

**Benediction** p. 202

**Closing Hymn** "Prepare the Royal Highway" LSB 343

**Postlude**