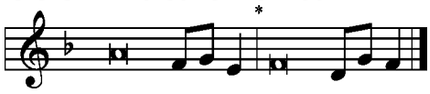
The Third Sunday in Advent
December 13-14, 2025
Divine Service, Setting Three, p. 184

Prelude *Christmas Medley* (8:00) Sunday School

Invocation (*stand*) p. 184

Confession and Absolution

Introit *Forsake Me Not* Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.
I will hope con- | tinually*
and will praise you yet | more and more.
My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the day,*
for their number is past my | knowledge.
With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;*
I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.
O God, from my youth you have | taught me,*
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.
So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,*
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all | those to come.
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.
Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

Kyrie p. 186

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

Collect of the Day p. 189

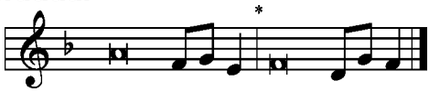
P The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**
P Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** (*sit*)

Old Testament *The Ransomed Shall Return* Isaiah 35:1–10

[1]The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
[2]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.
[3]Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
[4]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."
5Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
6then 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;
7the 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.
8And 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.
9No 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.
10And 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.

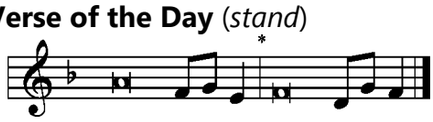
P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

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 *Patience in Suffering* James 5:7–11

7Be 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. 8You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11Behold, 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse of the Day (*stand*) Matthew 11:10b

Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

Holy Gospel *Messengers from John the Baptist* Matthew 11:2-15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.
C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

[2]Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples [3]and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" [4]And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: [5]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. [6]And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

[7]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? [8]What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. [9]What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. [10]This is he of whom it is written,

"'Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.'

[11]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. [12]From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. [13]For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, [14]and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. [15]He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.** (*sit*)

Hymn of the Day "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" LSB 345
soloist sts. 2, 4
stand for final stanza

Sermon "Are you the One?" Matthew 11:2-15

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*) "When All the World Was Cursed" LSB 346

When all the world was cursed
By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came
With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal
The greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown,
As Savior he proclaimed.

Before he yet was born,
He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord
Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream,
A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him
Of whom the prophets told:

Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win.

O grant, dear Lord of love,
That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John,
Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk
Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with Him
In His eternal day.

Nunc Dimittis (*stand*) p. 199

Thanksgiving p. 200

Salutation and Benedicamus p. 201

Benediction p. 202

Closing Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LSB 338

Postlude

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