

**PRAISE SERVICE
DECEMBER 12, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

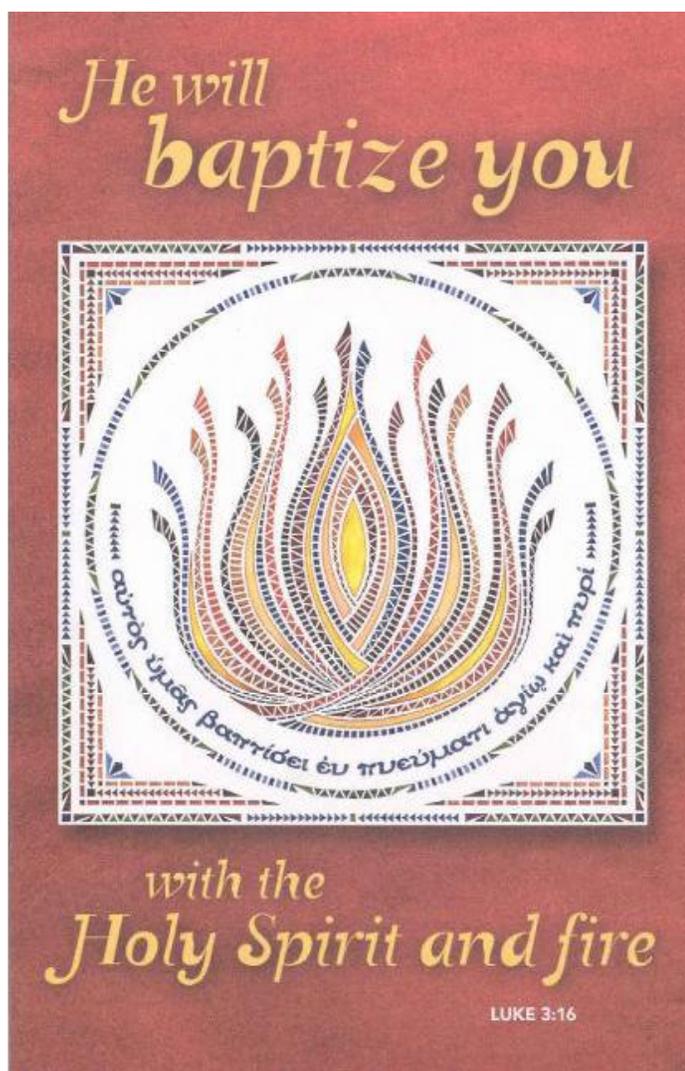
WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

*During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, peruse the bulletin, find the scripture readings in the pew Bible, and focus your thoughts on the Lord. You may pray: **God of grace, You have given us minds to know You, hearts to love You, and voices to sing Your praise. Fill us with Your Spirit, that we may celebrate Your glory in spirit and truth, through Jesus our Savior. AMEN.***

INTRODUCTION

The arrival is fast approaching; the light from the Advent wreath is growing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with His winnowing fork in His hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. How shall we prepare for God’s coming among us? With joy! With resolute action! With prayer and thanksgiving! The Lord is near.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying” (ELW # 255)

1. There's a voice in the wil-der-ness cry-ing, A
2. O Zi-on, that bring-est good ti-dings, Get thee
3. But the word of our God en-dur-eth, The

call from the ways un-trod: Pre-pare in the des-ert a high-way,
up to the heights and sing! Pro-claim to a des-o-late peo-ple
arm of the Lord is strong; He stands in the midst of na-tions,

A high-way for our God! The val-leys shall be ex-alt-ed,
The com-ing of their King: Like the flow'rs of the field they per-ish,
And He will right the wrong: He shall feed His flock like a shep-herd,

The loft-y hills brought low; Make straight all the crook-ed
The works of men de-cay, The power and pomp of
And fold the lambs to His breast; In pas-tures of peace He'll

pla-ces, Where the Lord our God may go!
na-tions Shall pass like a dream a-way.
lead them, And give to the wea-ry rest. A-MEN.

INVOCATION (= All may make the sign of the cross.)

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son , and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN.
2

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sins and seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

“Kyrie” (WOV p 28) *(Please kneel.)*

A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:

C Lord, have mer - cy. **A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:
Christ, . . . have mer - cy:

C Christ, have mer - cy. **A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:
Lord, . . . have mer - cy:

C Lord, have mer - cy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Almighty God, **C: We confess that we have sinned against You and against one another. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed Your reign of mercy, justice, and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of Your advent among us. Forgive us our sin. We await You coming to save us. AMEN.**

P: In the advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ, God looks with favor upon us and forgives us all our sins.

C: AMEN.

GREETING *(Please rise.)*

P: From the One Who was, Who is, and Who is to come: Grace and peace be with you all.

C: And also with you.

WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates" (SBH # 8)

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system has four lines of lyrics. The second system has four lines of lyrics. The third system has four lines of lyrics. The music is in a common time signature and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes.

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
2 O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the
3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
4 Re - deem - er come! I o - pen wide my heart to

1 King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
2 ru - ler is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
3 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
4 thee: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner

1 draw - ing near; the Sa - vior of the world is here.
2 hap - py homes to whom this King of tri - umph comes!
3 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
4 pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Words: Georg Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

Music: Truro, melody from *Psalmodia Evangelica, Part II*, 1789; harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872), alt.

LM

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray together: C: Stir up the wills of Your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in Your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING *(Please sit.)*

“O Come, Emmanuel” (SBH #2 - Tune 2 verses 1,3)

(Advent Wreath family comes forward.)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.**

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Reader: In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God. Around this wreath, we shall remember God’s promises. No matter how dark the darkness may be, we know the promise of this Third Candle of JOY and its coming light is true. *(The lighting of the third candle)*



Let us pray together: **Blessed are You, God of our salvation;
You promised to take away judgment, to cast out fear,
and to turn the shame of the outcast into praise. As we
light the third candle, kindle in us the fire of Your Holy
Spirit to make known Your deeds among the nations
and to sing for joy when You are in our midst; let Your
face shine on us that we may be saved. AMEN.**

(Advent Wreath family returns to seats.)

**O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory o’er the grave.**

Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

RESPONSIVE READING.... Isaiah 12 *(congregation: indented)*

In that day you will say:

“I will praise You, O LORD.

Although You were angry with me,

**Your anger has turned away
and You have comforted me.**

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.

**The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation.”**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

In that day you will say:

“Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name;

make known among the nations what He has done,
and proclaim that His name is exalted.
 Sing to the LORD, for He has done glorious things;
let this be known to all the world.
 Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,
for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

PRAISE SONG “*Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*” (LBW #25)

1 Re - joyce, re - joyce, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Go forth as he ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The bride - groom is at hand.
 In tri - umph cast be - fore him Their di - a - dems of gold.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S CHAT - *Ruthann Kistler*

FIRST READING....Zephaniah 3:14-20Pew Bible p. 1466

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING....Hebrews 12:18-29.....p. 1878

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Please rise.*)

“Open Your Ears Oh Faithful People ” verse 1 (WOV # 715)

1 O - pen your ears, O faith - ful peo - ple,
2 They who have ears to hear the mes - sage,
o - pen your ears and hear God's Word. O - pen your hearts, O
they who have ears, now let them hear; they who would learn the
roy - al priest - hood, God has come to you.
way of wis - dom, let them hear God's word.
Refrain
God has spo - ken to the peo - ple, hal - le - lu - jah!
God has spo - ken words of wis - dom, hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Hasidic traditional; English text, Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930 Music: YISRAEL V'ORAITA, Hasidic tune

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPELLuke 3:7-20.....p. 1593

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *“Open Your Ears...” verse 2*

SERMON (*Please sit.*)

Hebrews Part 10: “Come Worship the King in the City of Joy”

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.)*

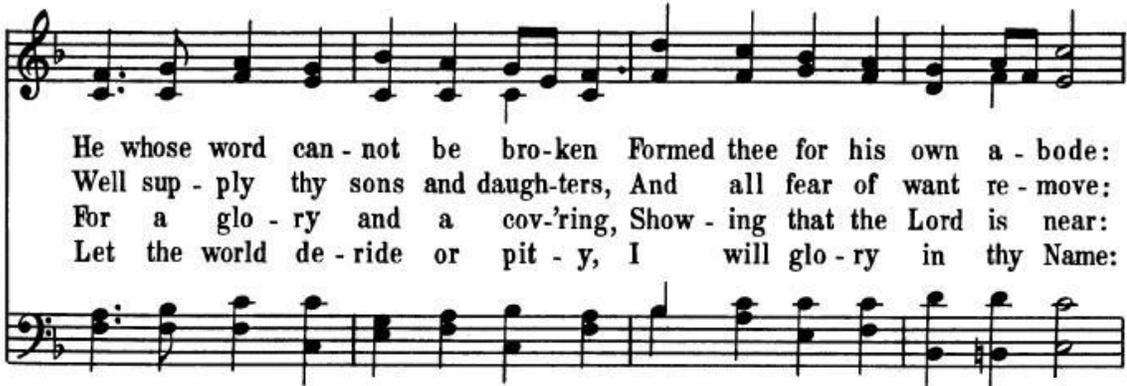
"Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken" (SBH # 152 - favorite)

John Newton, 1779

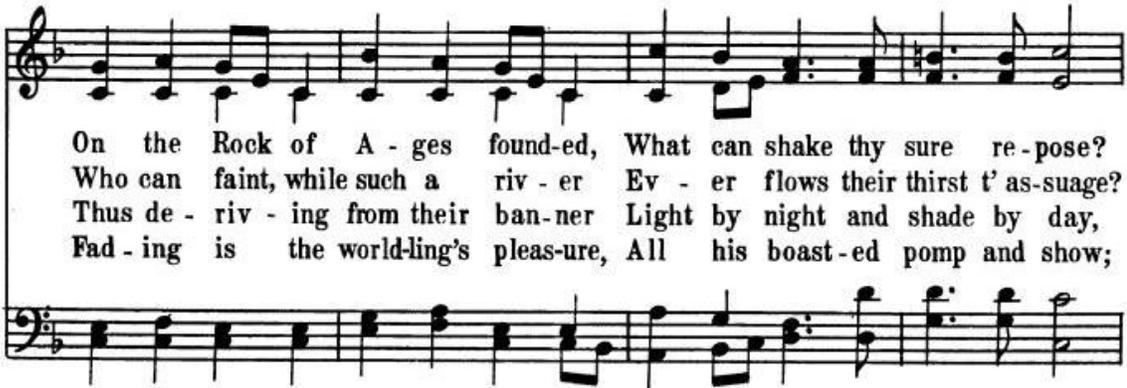
Franz Josef Haydn, 1797



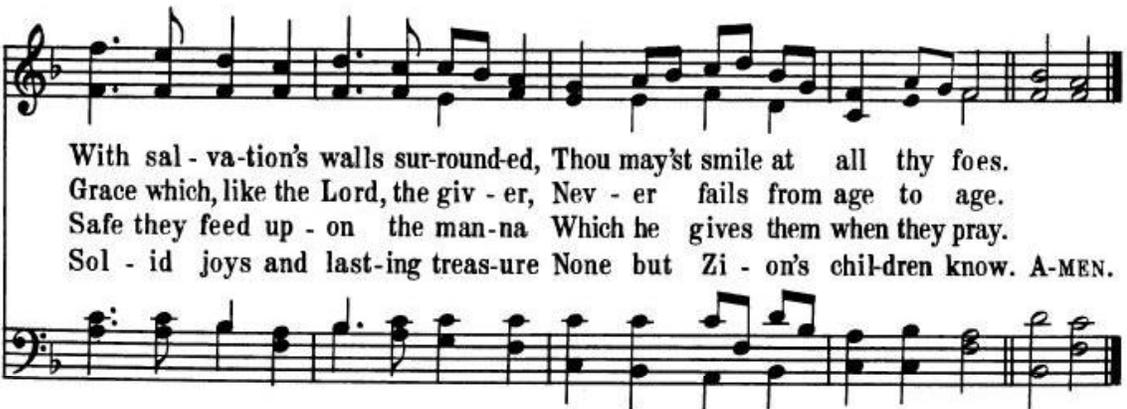
1. Glo - rious things of thee are spok-en, Zi - on, cit - y of our God;
2. See, the streams of liv - ing wa-ters, Spring-ing from e - ter - nal love,
3. Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov'-ring, See the cloud and fire ap - pear
4. Sav - iour, if of Zi - on's ci - ty I, through grace, a mem - ber am,



He whose word can - not be bro-ken Formed thee for his own a - bode:
Well sup - ply thy sons and daugh-ters, And all fear of want re - move:
For a glo - ry and a cov'-ring, Show - ing that the Lord is near:
Let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will glo - ry in thy Name:



On the Rock of A - ges found-ed, What can shake thy sure re - pose?
Who can faint, while such a riv - er Ev - er flows their thirst t'as-suage?
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban-ner Light by night and shade by day,
Fad - ing is the world-ling's pleas-ure, All his boast-ed pomp and show;



With sal - va-tion's walls sur-round-ed, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
Grace which, like the Lord, the giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.
Safe they feed up - on the man-na Which he gives them when they pray.
Sol - id joys and last-ing treas-ure None but Zi - on's chil-dren know. A-MEN.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

(Please sit.)

MISSION MOMENT Installation of Congregation Council

P: The following have been elected by the congregation to serve on church council. Please stand in place as your names are read:

**Sharon Branigan
Karen Brown
Joan Rosenthal
Dawn Schaeffer
Patty Stein**

**Sally Stein
Amanda Wechsler
Lisa Wechsler
Ken Yoxheimer
Mike Zyskowski**

P: In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of His Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, do you confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized as was just expressed in the Apostles' creed. If so, answer, "I Do."

P: St. Paul writes: There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust. Hear a summary of your duties from our constitution:

Council has general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, in particular its worship life, to the end that the pure Word of God is preached and the Sacraments are rightly administered; You are to lead the congregation in stating its

mission, make long-range plans, set goals and priorities, and evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals. You are to seek to involve all members in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, that provision be made for Christian instruction; that discipline be maintained, the erring admonished, and the impenitent excluded from the communion of the church; that the property of the Congregation be cared for, its temporal affairs be properly administered, and that the provisions of the constitution, bylaws and continuing resolutions are carried out.

It will be your further duty to assist the Pastor in the care of the sick and needy, in the cultivation of a climate of peace and goodwill among members, in the promotion of the general welfare of the Congregation, and in the furtherance of Christ's Kingdom at home and abroad.

You should also be mindful that, while holiness of life and conversation is required of all who name the Name of Christ, it is especially incumbent upon those who have been called to be office-bearers in His Church to show themselves in all things, by word and example, a pattern of good works.

In the presence of Almighty God and of this Congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the office to which you have been called, and do you promise to discharge your duties faithfully, in the fear of God, and according to the principles and usages of the Church?

R: Yes, by the help of God.

P: I declare you installed as congregation council members and officers. May Almighty God, Who has called you to the service of His Church, enlighten and strengthen you in your office, that you may prove good and faithful stewards, to the glory of His holy name. **C: AMEN.**

P: People of God, I ask you: Will you support these leaders and share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

C: Yes, by the help of God.

OFFERING

We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel.)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

BLESSING

P: The Lord of peace strengthen your hearts as you await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all the saints. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: AMEN.

SENDING HYMN *(Please rise.)*

"Hark the Glad Sound!" (SBH # 6 - favorite)

DIE HELLE SONNE. C. M. **SIGMUND GOTTLIEB STADEN, 1605-55**
In moderate time

1. Hark, the glad sound! the Sav-iour comes, The Sav-iour prom-ised long;
2. He comes, the pris-oners to re-lease In Sa-tan's bond-age held;

Let ev-ery heart pre-pare a throne, And ev-ery voice a song.
The gates of brass be-fore him burst, The i-ron fet-ters yield. A-men.

3 He comes, the broken heart to bind, 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
The bleeding soul to cure, Thy welcome shall proclaim;
And with the treasures of his grace And heaven's eternal arches ring
To enrich the humble poor. With thy beloved Name. Amen.

Philip Doddridge, 1702-51

PASSING THE PEACE

L: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

DECEMBER 12, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK

ALTAR GUILD: Jan Stryker/Sharon Branigan
PHONETREE: Marianne Sands
SOUND SYSTEM: 8:30-Chris Chmela 10:45-Ken Yoxheimer
LIVE STREAM: 8:30-Volunteer
WREATH FAMILY 8:30 Hahn Family 10:45 Sands Family
LITURGIST: 8:30-Jonathan Miller/10:45-Lynden Stryker
LECTOR: 8:30-Alyce Stein/10:45-Lyn Stryker
CHILDRENS CHAT: Ruthann Kistler
PRAYER CARE: Call Ruthann Kistler (610) 217 0397
COUNTERS: Michele Sciarra/Jan Stryker/Karen Brown

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daughter Jocelyn's birthday*

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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*

Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Marianne Sands, *Secretary*

Jim Steiner, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*

Lisa Wechsler, *Treasurer* † Glade Schroeter, *Webmaster*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 AM & 10:45 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM
(*Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts*)

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