

**✠ THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 15, 2024 ✠**

354 ARISE, O CHRISTIAN PEOPLE

1 Arise, O Christian people!

**Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.**

To us by grace alone

**The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.**

2 Prepare the way before Him;

Prepare for Him the best.

Cast out what would offend Him,

This great, this heav'nly guest.

Make straight, make plain the way:

The lowly valleys raising,

The heights of pride abasing,

His path all even lay.

**3 The humble heart and lowly
God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror
The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right,
That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation—
It is the Lord's delight.**

**4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You
This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly
And forth Your glory show.**

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.

Text: Public domain

***(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.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

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.**

A The Old Testament Reading is from Zephaniah, chapter 3.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against
you;

he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the
festival,

so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4–7

A The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter 4.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The
Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but
in everything by prayer and supplication with
thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Stand)

ALLELUIA

LSB 190

C **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:18–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

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

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he

healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, 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? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

SERMON

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

OFFERTORY

LSB 192

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

C Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

C Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For pastors and church workers, that God would send them as messengers before the face of

Jesus to prepare His way, making known His saving name; and that Christ would open the ears of all who hear to rejoice, repent and firmly believe, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who suffer for the name of Jesus, that our heavenly Father, who rescues the daughter of Zion, would look on them with compassion, giving them wisdom when they are pressured to compromise, providing for them when they suffer loss, granting courage when they are afraid, and delivering them from all evil, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our homes, that God would provide companionship for those who are alone, strengthen the bonds of marriage, and equip parents to raise their children in love and faith; and that, for Jesus' sake, our homes would be places of joy, reasonableness, peace and prayer, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our republic in its need, that abandoning all anxiety, we would instead, by prayer and thanksgiving, make our requests known to God; for the authorities and those newly elected, that God would give wisdom, health and success to those who govern us; and for peace in our time, even as we rest confident in the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the anxious, that the God of all joy would forgive their doubts, reveal the causes of their doubts, and guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, through whom all prayers are heard, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those in need, [*especially* _____,] let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who partake at the Supper of Christ's body and blood, that our Father would watch over them and preserve in them repentant and worthy hearts, firmly believing the words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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

P 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.

**C 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.”

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

341 LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

Behold, the King of glory waits.

The King of kings is drawing near;

The Savior of the world is here.

Life and salvation He doth bring;

Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.

To God the Father raise

Your joyful songs of praise.

2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;

His chariot is humility,

His kingly crown is holiness,

His scepter, pity in distress.

The end of all our woe He brings;

Therefore the earth is glad and sings.

To Christ the Savior raise

Your grateful hymns of praise.

**3 How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.**

**4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!**

**5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.**

Eternal praise and fame

We offer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Text: Public domain

O COME O COME EMANUEL (VIDEO)

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199

C 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.

P 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.

C Amen.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

333 ONCE HE CAME IN BLESSING

**1 Once He came in blessing,
All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us;
Hope and freedom gave us.**

- 2** Now He gently leads us;
With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven,
Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish
Souls that they may flourish.
- 3** Soon will come that hour
When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor
And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing
Joy beyond comparing.
- 4** Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing,
That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You
Till in heav'n we bless You.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006

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