

**DIVINE SERVICE FOR
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

Gaudete



LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lebanon Church, VA

December 13, 2020

Sung as the Advent wreath is lit.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

sts. 1, ref

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Refrain
Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

WELCOME

The bells.

Stand

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the
near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -
works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

PREPARATORY OFFICE

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Collect for Purity

P Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Exhortation

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Declaration of Grace

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C Amen.

Stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Kyrie – II

sts. 1e–3e



1 Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.
2 Christ, _____ have mer - cy. Christ, _____ have mer - cy.
3 Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.



Lord, _____ have mer - - - - cy.
Christ, _____ have mer - - - - cy.
Lord, _____ have mer - - - - cy.

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Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so 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 A - - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
 and every mountain and hill be made low;
 the uneven ground shall become level,
 and the rough places a plain.
⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
 and all flesh shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”
⁶A voice says, “Cry!”
 And I said, “What shall I cry?”
 All flesh is grass,
 and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
 when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
 surely the people are grass.
⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
 but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good news;
 lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
 lift it up, fear not;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 “Behold your God!”
¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 behold, his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;
 he will carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 9

¹LORD, you were favorable | to your land;*
 you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

²You forgave the iniquity of your | people;*
 you covered | all their sin.

³You withdrew | all your wrath;*
 you turned from your hot | anger.
⁴Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,*
 and put away your indignation | toward us!
⁵Will you be angry with us for- | ever?*

Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?
⁶Will you not revive | us again,*
 that your people may re- | joice in you?
⁷Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
 and grant us your sal- | vation.
⁸Let 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.
⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
 that glory may dwell | in our land.
¹⁰Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;*
 righteousness and peace kiss each | other.
¹¹Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,*
 and righteousness looks down | from the sky.
¹²Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
 and our land will yield its | increase.
¹³Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
 and make his foot- | steps a way.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 4:1–5

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

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

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

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

¹¹Truly, 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Hymn of the Day



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 Δ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day He rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken by the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church,
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins,
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Prepare the Royal Highway

Mission Hymn



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

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Santa Lucia Ceremony

Congregational Announcements and Dismissal

The Ministers make ready the elements for Holy Communion.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

Offertory



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Offertory Prayer

P Merciful Father,

C We offer with joy and thanksgiving, what you have first given us: our selves, our time, and our possessions – signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him Who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



C And al-so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus



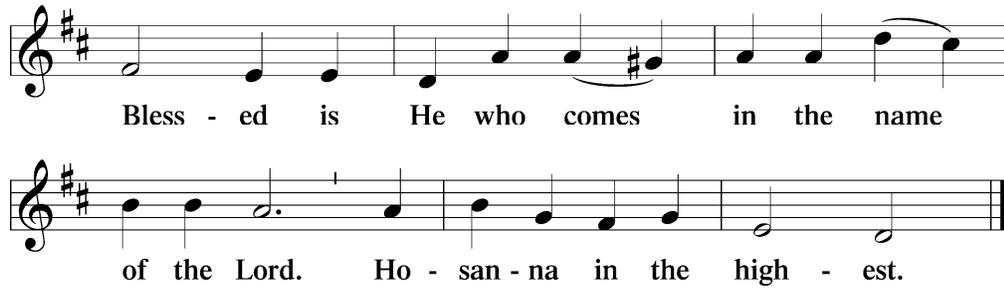
C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.

Sit.

Agnus Dei



□ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution

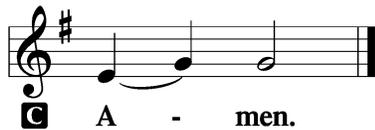
Stand

Blessing

Post-Communion Collect

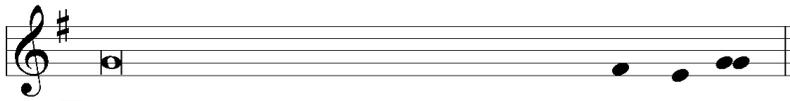
□ Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



□ A - men.

Benediction



P 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 A - men.

Dismissal

Acknowledgments

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PRAYER REQUESTS

George Beauchesne, Nadine Buckle, Bessie and Annie Clem, Debbie Gochenour, Kelliann Harris, Howard McDonald, Andrea Oxsen, Ernie Pingley, Bill Rose, and all caregivers.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Zoom Meetings this week:

Monday 10am – Advent Readings

Monday 7pm – Revelation Study

Contact Pastor Chris for more information.

Communion Service Wednesdays at 11am during the Advent season.

Pastor Chris will be available on Wednesdays, 10:30am – 3pm for Communions. Please call for an appointment.

We will be filling Christmas stockings for the Strasburg Police Department, Strasburg & Star Tannery Fire & Rescue, and the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office next Sunday, December 20, 4pm., **followed by Christmas caroling** to our shut-in members at 4:45pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- ❖ Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 11pm
- ❖ Christmas Day Service, December 25, 10am

PARISH INFORMATION

Lebanon Lutheran Church

540.465.5456

lebanonlutheranchurch.org

10120 Middle Rd.

Lebanon Church, VA 22641

Pastor Porter

Mobile: 248.794.2263

Church Secretary

secretary2.lebanon@gmail.com