

# THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Gaudete*



DECEMBER 17, 2023

LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lebanon Church, VA

## WELCOME TO LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today. If you are a visitor and seeking a church home, Pastor Porter or one of our members will be happy to assist you. Please feel free to take a Newsletter and one or more of the *A Short Explanation of...* books located in the vestibule.

If you are unfamiliar with liturgical worship, this bulletin includes the entire Order of Service for this Sunday. At the time of the Distribution of Holy Communion, the congregation may sing additional hymns from the *Lutheran Book of Worship* (LBW, the big green book). The hymn numbers are listed near the heading "Communion Hymns." We are ready to assist you with any questions you may have, and Pastor Porter regularly offers instruction in the liturgy for the sake of greater understanding and participation.

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*If you intend to commune this day, please review the Communion statement,*

located under the SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT heading in this bulletin. It is our hope and prayer that all communicants will embrace our Confession of Faith as baptized Christians who desire to receive the Lord's body and blood in the Sacrament.

Please see the Parish Announcements at the end of this bulletin for congregational events, educational, and outreach opportunities.

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We welcome families with children and understand that children wiggle and make noise. We encourage their presence in the Service and their own "joyful noises."

Families may make use of the room at the front entrance to the church (the overflow) or the nursery near the fellowship hall as a retreat if it is desired.

May our gracious God bless and edify you as we worship Him this day!

*Soli Deo Gloria*

The congregation assembles and offers silent prayer upon entering the pews.

## Announcement of the Day

The ministers gather for the procession. The congregation stands for the Hymn.

## Hymn of Expectation

*Prepare the Royal Highway*



- 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:

*Refrain*



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

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 130301202

Tune: Public domain

## THE PREPARATION

*Matthew 28:19b; 18:20*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

*Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5*

**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.**

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

*John 20:19–23*

**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** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **C** **Amen.**

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## Introit

*Psalm 85:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4–5*



Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will | say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\*  
The Lord | is at hand.

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

**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.

Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\*  
The Lord | is at hand.

## Kyrie

O | Lord,\*  
have mercy u- | pon us.

O | Christ,\*  
have mercy u- | pon us.

O | Lord,\*  
have mercy u- | pon us.

## 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 40:1-8*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak 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.  
A voice cries:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every 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.  
And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A 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.  
The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

*Psalm 85*

*Antiphon:* Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,\*  
that glory may dwell | in our land.

**LORD, you were favorable | to your land;\***  
**you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.**  
You forgave the iniquity of your | people;\*  
you covered | all their sin.  
**You withdrew | all your wrath;\***  
**you turned from your hot | anger.**

Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,\*  
and put away your indignation | toward us!

**Will you be angry with us for- | ever?\***

**Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?**

Will you not revive | us again,\*  
that your people may re- | joice in you?

**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.**

Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet,\*  
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.

**Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,\***  
**and righteousness looks down | from the sky.**

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.**

*Antiphon:* Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,\*  
that glory may dwell | in our land.



## Epistle

*1 Corinthians 4:1-5*

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. But 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. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore 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



**C** 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.

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

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

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

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.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

**Sermon**

*Stand*

## Hymn of the Day

*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!

## Nicene Creed

**C** We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten 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,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through 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

*Sit*

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Baptized and repentant sinners who accept our doctrine, are not under church discipline, and who confess with us that the body and blood of the Lord are distributed and received with the bread and wine of the Sacrament are welcome to commune at this altar. Those who are not yet Baptized or who are unsure of their confession of faith may come forward for a blessing; approach the steps with arms crossed over chest to receive a blessing.

### Offering

*When the Offering has been received and the altar made ready, we stand for the Offertory.*

### Offertory

*Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19*



What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the

courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru - sa-lem.

### Offertory Prayer

- A** 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

*2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]*

**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

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**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.  
 Bless - ed is He who comes in the name  
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

## The Words of Our Lord

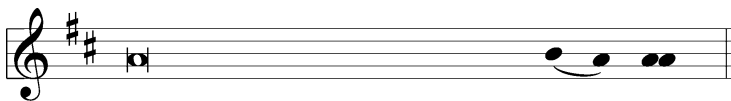
## Proclamation of Christ

- 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.

## Lord's Prayer

### Pax Domini

*John 20:19*



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

### Agnus Dei

*John 1:29*



**C** 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



*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who have been admitted to the Lord's Table.*

## Communion Hymn

*Hark the Glad Sound*



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51  
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820  
Text and tune: Public domain

*When all have Communed and returned to the pews, we stand for the Post-Communion Blessing.*

## Post-Communion Blessing

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

**1** O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
**2** All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

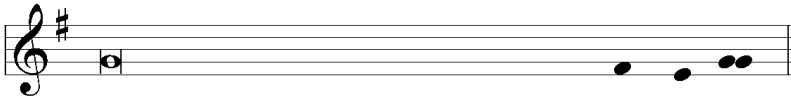
**A** Let us pray.

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

*Numbers 6:24–26*



**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.

## Hymn to Depart

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*



1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus  
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”  
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Announcements and Dismissal

### Acknowledgments

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## *Prayer Requests*

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Rev. Bill White, Fran Reidy, Steve Lowe, Margaret Daley, John Marshall, Mary Artz, Ruth Rickard, Kathryn Flynn, Roger Hockman, George and Rose Beauchesne, J.J. Peterson and family, Orville, for laborers for the Lord's Vineyard, for the Lutheran Church in the Valley, for vision for the stewardship of property, for a full-time pianist, for the restoration of civil peace in Ukraine and Israel.

## *Congregational Budget Information*

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Needed each week: \$3,173.71. Sunday 12/7: \$3,012,00

## *This Week*

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**Monday** – ZOOM Ephesians Bible Study, 10am. **No Monday Evening Death and Dying Class...** we will resume after Christmastide.

**Tuesday** – Service at The Maynard at 11am.

**Wednesday** – Matins at 8:15am, Confession and Absolution at 10am, Vespers at 5:30pm.

**Thursday** – Pastor at Lutheran Church in the Valley at 6:30pm. Choir Practice at 7pm.

## *Looking Ahead*

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Pastor will *install the new Council* on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup> at the 11am Divine Service.

# SCHEDULE OF CHRISTMAS SERVICES



*CHRISTMAS EVE - Sunday Morning at 11am, Divine Service.*

*CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT – Sunday at 11pm, Candlelight Vigil with Holy Communion.*

*CHRISTMAS DAY – Monday Morning at 10am, Divine Service.*



## **PARISH INFORMATION**

540-465-5456

[lebanonlutheranchurch.org](http://lebanonlutheranchurch.org)

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