



# Third Sunday in Advent

## + Sunday, December 13, 2020 +

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### Invocation

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### Psalmody

*Psalm 126*

L: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**C: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

L: then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

**C: The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.**

L: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!

**C: Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!**

L: He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

**C: Glory be to Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### Hymn

#343

[1] Prepare the royal highway;  
The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory,  
Foretold in sacred story:

Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!

[2] God's people, see Him coming:  
Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you!  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!

[3] Then fling the gates wide open  
To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet every nation  
Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him;  
All nations, now adore Him!  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!

[4] His is no earthly kingdom;  
It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness so abounding:  
Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!

## **Old Testament**

## **Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11**

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of*

*the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.*

**L:** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Epistle**

## **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophecies, but test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil. Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the*

*coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

**John 1:6-8,19-28**

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn**

**#347**

[1] "Comfort, comfort ye My people,  
Speak ye peace!" thus saith our God:  
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover  
And her warfare now is over."

[2] Yea, her sins our God will pardon,  
Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger  
He no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many a day,  
Now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness  
Into ever-springing gladness.

[3] Hark, the herald's voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling sinners to repentance,  
Since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God away;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him  
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

[4] Make ye straight  
what long was crooked;  
Make the rougher places plain!  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That His Word is never broken.

**Sermon** (video available at <https://youtu.be/DXgnyQrbyVU>)

## **Apostles' Creed**

**C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And 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. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **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.**

## **Collect**

**L: 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.**

## **Blessing**

**L: Let us bless the Lord.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**L: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.**

**C: Amen.**

- [1] Let the earth now praise the Lord,  
Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send  
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- [2] What the fathers most desired,  
What the prophets' heart inspired,  
What they longed for many a year,  
Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- [3] Abram's promised great reward,  
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord--  
Him of twofold race behold--  
Truly came, as long foretold.
- [4] As Your coming was in peace,  
Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me  
Which is Yours eternally.
- [5] Bruise for me the serpent's head  
That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith,  
Safely kept through life and death.
- [6] Then when You will come again  
As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face,  
Freely ransomed by Your grace.