

+DIVINE SERVICE III+  
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
+THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT+ II DECEMBER 2022+

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The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

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

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# The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

- ❖ The Rev. Edward Killian, Pastor (mobile) 424.293.6588
- ❖ Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644
  - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
  - ❖ Mr. Leon Tarr, Congregational Chairman
  - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

## Welcome to our Divine Service!

*We are pleased that you are with us.*

### +Worship Notes+

*The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.*

**Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church!** We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

**To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!**

### A Note From The Organist:

Paul Mainz's setting was originally improvised and revised and published later. He features a duet for flutes alternating with the hymn melody in the strings.

David Johnson served on several college faculties, including St. Olaf and Arizona State. His setting of "The King Shall Come" features a mini-toccata between choral-like outer sections.

# Confession and Absolution

## Hymn of Invocation

## 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



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  
 △ 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: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite  
 Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621  
 Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Exhortation

LSB 184

- 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.**

*Kneel/Stand*

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

## Confession of Sins

*LSB 184*

- 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.**

## Absolution

*LSB 185*

- 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.**

*Stand*

# 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.  
**You forgave the iniquity of your | people;\***  
**you covered | all their sin.**  
 Will you not revive | us again,\*  
 that your people may re- | joice in you?

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.

**Gloria Patri**

LSB 186

**C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

**Kyrie**

LSB 186

**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

*Gloria in Excelsis in Omitted during Advent*

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray.

**P** 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

*Isaiah 35*

### The Ransomed Shall Return

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
"Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you."

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;

even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
9No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
10And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

*Psalm 146*

### Do Not Put Your Trust in Princes

1Praise | the LORD!\*

Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

2**I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;\***

**I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.**

3Put not your trust in | princes,\*

in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.

4**When his breath departs he returns | to the earth;\***

**on that very day his plans | perish.**

5Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,\*

whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

6**who made heaven and earth,**

**the sea, and all that is | in them,\***

**who keeps faith for- | ever;**

7who executes justice for | the oppressed,\*

who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;

8**the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.\***

**The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**the LORD loves the | righteous.**

9The LORD watches over the sojourners;

he upholds the widow and the | fatherless,\*

but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD will reign for- | ever,\*  
your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!**

## Epistle

*James 5:7–11*

### Patience in Suffering

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia

*LSB 190*



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 11:2–11*

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



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

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

<sup>7</sup>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? <sup>8</sup>What



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

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

<sup>11</sup>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 be to Thee, O Christ.

### Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the Lord and giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
 who spoke by the prophets.  
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
 and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day**

**347 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

**Sermon**

*Pastor Edward Killian*

*Stand*

**Offertory**

LSB 192



**C** 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.

**Offering** *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

**Prayer of the Church**

*The proper response is "Lord, have mercy."*

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

- P** For joy at all times and reasonableness of word and deed, that all may recognize our Christian confidence in Christ's advent, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For our pastors, that they would regard themselves as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God; and that they may be found trustworthy as they carry out their duties, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For persecuted Christians everywhere, that they would be comforted in their hardships and emboldened to persevere in confessing the blessed and saving Word of God, which stands forever, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For Congress and the justices of our nation; Joseph, our president; *Gavin*, our governor; and all others in positions of civil authority, that they may diligently administer their duties in all godly wisdom, justice, compassion and contentment for the well-being of our nation, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For the sick and grieving, especially *Alice, Bev, Carmen, Cynthia, Debra, Dolores, Gene, Gayle and her family, Gene, Helen, Hoshea, Jane, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marion and her family, Megan, Royce, Sabrina, Sophia, and Timothy* that as the day draws near when blind eyes see, deaf ears hear, lame legs leap and mute tongues sing for joy, God would grant them healing according to His gracious will, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For faith to believe Christ's blessed testament, seek His Holy Supper for the forgiveness of our sins, and confess His truth with honest hearts in the communion of this altar, let us pray to the Lord:
- 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.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 194



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

### Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

*LSB 194*

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

*LSB 195*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



## The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197



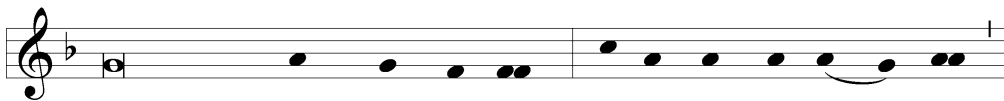
**P** Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  bod - y, which is giv-en for you.



This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so



He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it



to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in



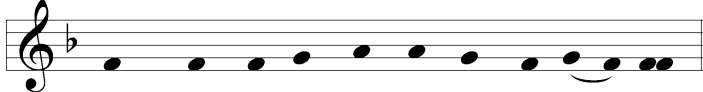
My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.



This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

## Pax Domini

LSB 197



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







say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way  
tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for  
Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these  
Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that  
Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know:  
Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow  
By Thy blood and bitter passion;  
For these words I now believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
From the Law I stand acquitted.  
Christ hath purchased my release  
And my ev'ry sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 7 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
Also I have been forgiven;  
And when I this earth must leave,  
I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to Him I cleave:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Distribution Hymn

617 O Lord, We Praise Thee



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,  
 2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,  
 3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy  
 Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er  
 That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that  
 love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -  
 geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our  
 Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy  
 Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that

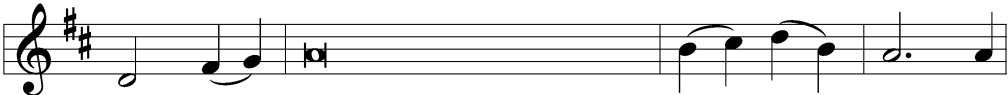


sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead  
 blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;  
 heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!  
 Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-




cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



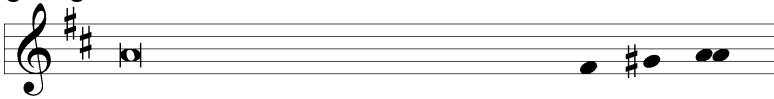
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



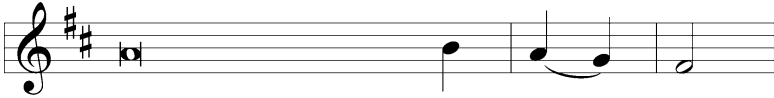
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

LSB 200



**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

## Post-Communion Collect

**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** A - men.

## Salutation

LSB 201



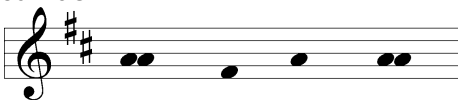
**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

## Benedicamus

LSB 202



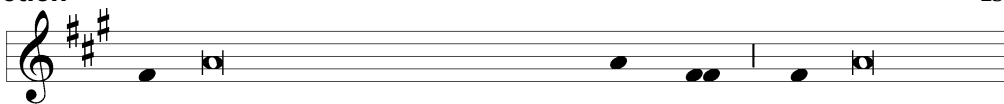
**A** Bless we the Lord.



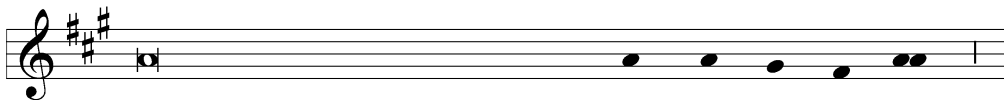
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

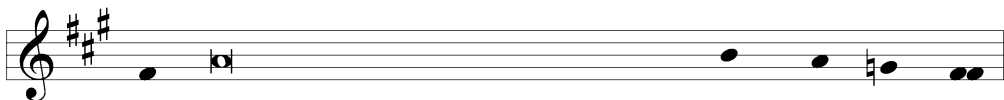
LSB 202



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Hymn to Depart

### 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.  
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.  
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.  
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

Text and tune: Public domain

## The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

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# ✝ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✝

## Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance: 36**  
**Midweek Attendance: 18**

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** December 11<sup>th</sup> Gayle  
December 18<sup>th</sup> Susie  
**Cleanup for December:** Maurine and Nannette

+ **We will be decorating the Sanctuary after service today!** Refreshments will be provided for those who would like to help!

+ **If you would like to order a Poinsettia to help decorate the Sanctuary, please place your orders by Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.** See Moira or contact the church office if you have any questions.

+ **Join us for food and fellowship at the Advent Suppers on Wednesday Evenings at 6pm before Vespers at 7pm. If you would like to contribute, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.**

### LWML Message

LWML Retreat Registration - If you are planning on attending the LWML District Retreat February 3-5, 2023, in Ontario, PLEASE give your registration form to Gayle Tarr by next Sunday, Dec. 11, in order for us to submit it by January's deadline, as our LWML will pay for ALL registrations. Extra registration forms are available in the narthex or online at [psdlwml.org](http://psdlwml.org). Please make your own hotel reservations. Thank you! Gayle Tarr, LWML Treasurer

## December Birthdays

Brittany Cotton 12<sup>th</sup>

Olaf Teitell 14<sup>th</sup>

Johnathan Thomas 23<sup>rd</sup>

## Upcoming Advent Services

Advent III Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

Advent IV Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> @ 7pm

*Advent Suppers will begin at 6pm each Wednesday before service.*

## **Christmas Services**



Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> @ 4pm  
Service of Lessons and Carols beginning with  
a Christmas Organ Recital @ 3:30pm

Christmas Day – Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
Divine Service @ 10am

### **A Snippet From 1517**

The fifth chapter of James seems to be an unlikely place to find the themes of Advent, but they are there. The clearest theme outside of exhorting patience in suffering is *why* one should endure patiently. The answer: The Lord is coming (verse 7). Reading this pericope as a Christian adaptation of earlier Jewish concepts of the Messianic era helps us to understand the mind of James. He is a Jewish convert to the reality of His brother, Jesus of Nazareth, who was and is the Messiah of God. His former way of hoping for the appearing of Messiah had no fulfillment, no reality in time and space... until Jesus. As a result, talk about the coming of the Lord Jesus possesses a confidence hitherto unknown. James takes the Jewish expectation and thoroughly baptizes it in the light of the fact of the Incarnation. Messiah has come. The Lord God fulfilled His promises to Israel and, indeed, the gentile world, by sending forth His only begotten Son, born of a woman (the Virgin Mary), born under the Law. Standing on the Mount of Olives, he saw the Christ's Ascension. He saw the *Shekinah* glory, the luminous cloud of Christ's abiding presence (not absence!). Now, however, with these facts immovably and unalterably ensconced in real human history, James can confidently speak about **ἡ παρουσία τοῦ Κυρίου**, the coming of the Lord, specifically, the Lord Jesus. Therefore, preach this sure Word of God. Preach the confidence all should have in the promises of our Lord and make direct connections to His gifts of Baptism, Forgiveness, and Communion where your auditors are confronted with the divine promises which do not fail and are fortified in their verity by the truth of the Incarnation. The Apostle James sets Christ as the object of our trust and confidence. Preach the call to faith in the promise-keeping Christ who has come, who comes, and who shall come again. This is most certainly true.

The connection between the great messianic event known as Advent and His future *parousia* is proclaimed and celebrated during the Eucharist in many parishes by retaining the *memorial acclamation*, "Christ has died/Christ is risen/Christ will come again." At this time of the year, Advent, we look both back with confidence of Christ having come (the gift of Christmas) and forward to the assured hope Christ will come again. This belief is professed through the *memorial acclamation*, but also each time we confess any of the three ecumenical creeds (the Apostles Creed, Nicene Creed, and Athanasian Creed). James' recipients were longing for the *parousia*; the so-called "second coming" of Christ. It should be noted how the term "second coming" is a misnomer since Christ, according

to His own word ([Matthew 18:20](#); [John 14:18](#); [Hebrews 12:5](#); and especially [2 John 7](#)) continually comes in the Lord's Supper. Because "second coming" communicates an unbiblical Christology and eschatology, preachers do well to speak of the *parousia*.

Since we do not know the day or the hour of His re-appearing ([Matthew 24:36](#)), *now* is the time for faith. The hour for trust and wholesale allegiance to Christ is here. Why? Because He is coming as certainly as He has already come, indeed, as certainly as He continually comes in the Word and Sacrament of the Altar ([2 John 7](#)). In the meantime, be patient, not idle. There is no need to be anxious in between the times of rain (verse 8). Wait with positive confidence ([2 Peter 3:3-9](#)). More than that, as children of the One who is the Resurrection and the eternal Life ([John 11:25](#)), as children who have themselves been both justified and regenerated, live as if Christ has already reappeared, as if the *parousia* has happened. In short, in the meantime, live as if the resurrection and return is the current reality for the Church. Hence verse 9: "Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door." Live in the light of Christian love. The King is at hand. He is judge of the living and the dead. As stressful as life may be, your conduct must be as one of those who are of His Kingdom and in the Spirit of Christ.

Need an example, asks James? Consider verses 10 and 11:

"As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful."

Make sure the sermon is not derailed by the mention of Job. He is an example, yes, but Job is not the focus of the text. Do not preach Job but, rather, Jesus. James sets this up nicely too when he says, "You have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful." Amidst suffering, stress, disappointment, trying patience, and hardship we must not allow ourselves to be persuaded by others or circumstances to impugn the blessed Trinity. The Lord is neither uncaring, nor aloof. "He has a father's heart, even when He allows darkness to come. God cannot be unkind to His children," writes [R. Kent Hughes](#).<sup>[1]</sup> The words of [Isaiah 49:15-16](#) come to mind.

James, reflecting on "the purpose of God" (in other words, to make His compassion and mercy known *and* experienced), takes it to a new height. Since God's compassion and mercy have been fully and maximally revealed and accomplished in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus the Son, he coins a new word: "πολύσπλαγχνος." It can be translated into English as, "full of tender compassion." The Father and the Son with the Holy Spirit care for us in our misery, our persecutions, our hardships, our misfortunes, and our journey through this veil of tears. Be assured, because of Christ, as He maximizes God's tender compassion and mercy, we will in fact be blessed. This blessedness occurs only in Christ. What safety and security there is as we abide in Jesus, with the confidence that He is coming! *John Bombaro, 2022*