



“Rejoicing Always”

Saturday, December 12, 2020 at 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 8:00 am & 11:00 am

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

AS WE GATHER

We hear John the Baptist coming to prepare the way for the Lord, whose earthly birth we are preparing to celebrate and whose coming again on the Last Day is the promise of resurrection and eternal life for all who believe. Between our coming to faith and His coming again, we are called to lives of faith that continue to rejoice, to pray, and to give thanks in every circumstance. We can do that because we have come to the light of our salvation and hope of eternal life. Now certainly it's easier to rejoice, pray, and give thanks when things are going well. It's another thing when we suffer illness or persecution, the reverses, challenges, and disappointments of life. Nevertheless, the Spirit of Christ seeks to enable us to do just that—to rejoice always, to pray always, and to give thanks to God always in all circumstances. This is holy living, constantly keeping the eyes of faith on the sure and certain Word and promises of God for His people, the God who blesses, keeps, comforts, and strengthens us every day. We rejoice with the psalmist, saying, “This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).

Please stand for portions of service marked with asterisk ().*

THE PRELUDE

Nathan Eickmann, Accompanist

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE WELCOME

Pastor Chris Matthis

***OPENING HYMN**

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

LSB 343



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!

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+ PREPARATION +

***INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and ✠ of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.

People: Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves.

Make us truly repentant, that we may receive the holiness of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.

Pastor: The true light has come. To all who receive Him, He makes to be the children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to 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.

People: Amen.

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: the light no darkness can overcome.

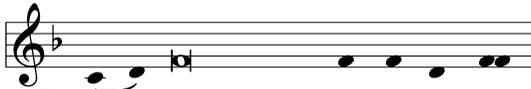
Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness

People: and illumine Your Church.

The first, second, and third candles are lit, representing hope, peace, and joy.

***KYRIE**

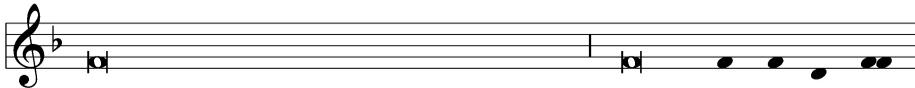
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Pastor: **A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



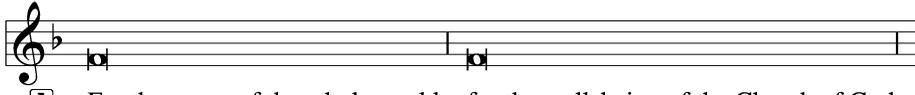
People: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



Pastor: **A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



People: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



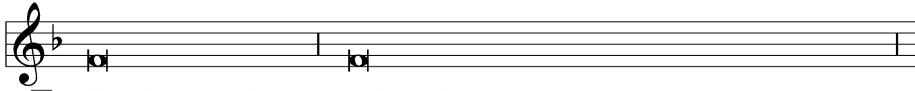
Pastor: **A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



People: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



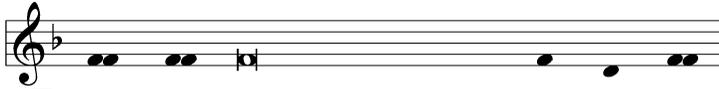
Pastor: **A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



People: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



Pastor: **A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



People: **C** A - men.

***SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

SPECIAL SONG

“Prepare Ye the Way”

Men’s Ensemble

+ **WORD** +

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

(The Spirit of Yahweh is upon me...)

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.

Lector: This is the Word of the LORD.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SPECIAL SONG

"We Await You"

Adult Choir

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

(Rejoice always, pray without ceasing)

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.

Lector: This is the Word of the LORD.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*ALLELUIA

LSB pg. 156

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

*HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

(The ministry of John the Baptist)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

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. . . .

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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the LORD.



Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Chris Matthis

SERMON HYMN

"Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB 349



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.

Tune and text: Public domain

SERMON

Pastor Chris Matthis

*CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

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 shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall 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 worshipped 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.

OFFERING

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7). We give our tithes and offerings to God as an act of worship in gratitude for the gifts He



has first given us. If you wish to give electronically using a credit card or automated bank withdrawal, please scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit www.epiphanylc.org and click on GIVE. As good stewards, please use credit wisely.

If you wish to mail your gift, send your check to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 550 E. Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock, CO 80109.

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE ELECTRONICALLY](#)

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*After each petition is read Pastor says, "LORD, in your mercy" and Congregation responds with, "**hear our prayer.**"*

+SACRAMENT+

***PREFACE**

LSB pg. 160

Pastor: The LORD be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the LORD.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the LORD our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

***WORDS OF OUR LORD** *(Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25)*

Pastor: 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 \times 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 \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

*PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the LORD's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*

People: Amen. Come, LORD Jesus. *Revelation 22:20*

*LORD'S PRAYER *(Matthew 6:9-13)*

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.

*THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

People: Amen.

*AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 163

□ 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.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

The LORD's Supper, also known as Holy Communion or the Eucharist, is celebrated at Epiphany Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that our LORD Jesus Christ gives us His very body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins, and to strengthen our unity with Christ and our Christian brothers and sisters. Our LORD invites to His table those baptized Christians who trust His Word, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive others as He loves and forgives us. Scripture urges us to examine our conscience and belief about Holy Communion before we partake of the Supper (1 Cor. 11:28). Because those who partake of the LORD's Supper unworthily do so to their great harm, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an Elder. For further study, see Matthew 26:26-29; 5:23-26; 18:15-35; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:17-34.

Children and uninstructed youth and adults may receive a blessing by crossing their arms over their chest, which is known as the sign of St. Andrew's cross.

White grape juice and gluten free Communion wafers are available for those with alcohol sensitivity or gluten intolerance.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"

LSB 350



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
 will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
 will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
 we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text and tune: Public domain

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** (*Thank the LORD*)

LSB pg. 164



☐ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless You and keep you; the LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

People: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

LSB 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

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SERVING THE LORD THIS WEEKEND

(December 12-13, 2020)

Readings: *(Old Testament)* Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
(Epistle) 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 *(Holy Gospel)* John 1:6-8, 19-28

	5:00 pm	8:00 am	11:00 am
Preacher	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>
Elders	<i>Joel Crosswhite</i>	<i>Todd Rychecky</i>	<i>Michael Huntley</i>
Accompanist	<i>Nathan Eickmann</i>	<i>Nathan Eickmann</i>	<i>Nathan Eickmann</i>
Sound System		<i>Mike Kozimko</i>	
Video			
Acolyte		<i>Thomas Sprankle</i>	<i>Shawn Clark</i>
Altar Guild			
Children's Message	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>	<i>Pastor Chris Matthis</i>
Nursery		NURSERY CLOSED	NURSERY CLOSED
Greeters			
Lectors	<i>DCE Kristin Schmidt</i>	<i>Todd Rychecky</i>	<i>Laura Hefta</i>
Snacks	Suspended	Suspended	Suspended
Ushers			<i>Larry Drees & Richard Rath</i>



Epiphany Lutheran Church of Castle Rock, Colorado

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Website: www.epiphanylc.org

ME SYSTEM LINK: <https://epiphanylc.ccbchurch.com/login.php>

Pastor Chris Matthis + Cell: 303-921-0717

pastorchrismatthis@epiphanylc.org

(Pastor available by appointment)

DCE Kristin Schmidt + Cell: 951-775-6134 + Tu-F 8 am - 4 pm

dce@epiphanylc.org

Mrs. Donata Rolf + office@epiphanylc.org + Office hours: M-F 8 am – 4 pm

Ms. Mary Wenkheimer, Choir Director + choir@epiphanylc.org

Ms. Debbie Stewart, Accounting Assistant + accounting@epiphanylc.org



Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

"We help people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ"