

## Confession and Absolution December 12-13, 2020

### 349 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.

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**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** **Amen.**

**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.*

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

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

Reader: During Advent we listen for the wonder of God's Word.

**C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

Reader: During Advent we reach beyond the noise and distractions of this world.

**C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

Reader: During Advent we ponder the good news that is our great joy.

**C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

Reader: During Advent we speak words of hope to those engaged in life's struggles.

**C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.**

Reader: During Advent we offer words of peace to those overcome by life's fears.

Congregation:

JOEL RANEY

There is won - der in the hope of the birth of a  
 King, there is won - der in the sound of the an - gels as they  
 sing. O - come, O come, Em - man - u -  
 el, and join us here.

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**Introit** Ps. 85:8-9, 12-13; antiphon: Ps. 85:7

P: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD

**C: and grant us your salvation.**

P: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak

**C: for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

P: Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him

**C: that glory may dwell in our land.**

P: Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

**C: and our land will yield its increase.**

P: Righteousness will go before him\*

**C: and make his footsteps away.**

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

P: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,\*

**C: and grant us your salvation.**

**Kyrie** LSB 168

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

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

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

P: 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.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



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

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

### 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.

### WORD OF GOD VERSE 833 v 3 Listen, God Is Calling

Leader: Listen,

**All: listen, God is calling Through the Word inviting,  
Offering forgiveness, Comfort, and joy.**

Leader: Help us to be faithful,

**All: Standing steadfast,**

Leader: Walking in Your teachings,

**All: Led by Your Word.**

Leader: Listen,

**All: listen, God is calling Through the Word inviting,  
Offering forgiveness, Comfort, and joy.**

### Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

<sup>1</sup>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; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

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

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.

### Alleluia and Verse

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

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**G** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>19</sup>And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>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?" <sup>23</sup>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." <sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **G** Praise to You, O Christ.

### 345 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!

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## Sermon

### 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  $\mp$  everlasting. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

#### *Brief silence*

Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation! Keep Your saints from every folly that would turn them from Your words of peace. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Dear Father, be the source of strength and comfort in every home. Bless the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Your Son's gracious visitation. Sanctify them completely, that their whole spirit, soul and body may be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Receive our thanks in every circumstance for Your kindness in Christ Jesus and the certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Him. We pray especially for Roger, and Don. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Lord God, maker of heaven and earth and giver of life, we thank You for all the mercies You granted to our brother, Roger, during his earthly life, especially for calling him to faith in Jesus Christ. Comfort the survivors who mourn his death with the hope of the glorious resurrection and a joyful reunion in heaven. Keep us mindful that we are mortal so that we will ever be prepared to die in the faith and finally receive the glory promised to all who trust in You. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, our times are in Your hands. Look with favor on Ruth and Dee who celebrate birthdays, and grant that they may continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Strengthen their trust in Your goodness and bless them with Your abiding love all the days of their life; Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Gracious Lord, we give thanks that in Holy Baptism we receive forgiveness of sins, deliverance from death and the devil, and eternal salvation. On this baptismal anniversary, bless Katelyn, Lisa, Danny, Joleen, Dwight, and Mark continually by Your Word and Spirit that they may faithfully keep the covenant into which they have been called, boldly confess their Savior, and finally share with all Your saints the joys of eternal life; Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

### Offertory *LSB 176*



**C** 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.

**Lord's Prayer** LSB 179

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.

**Benediction** LSB 183

**P** T 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 Amen.**

**515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

1 Re-joice, re-joice, be-liev-ers, And let your lights ap-pear;  
 2 The watch-ers on the moun-tain Pro-claim the Bride-groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa-tience Their cross and suf-f'rings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex-pec-ta-tion, O Je-sus, now ap-pear;

The eve-ning is ad-vanc-ing, And dark-er night is near.  
 Go forth as He ap-proach-es With al-le-lu-ias clear.  
 Shall live and reign for-ev-er When sor-row is no more.  
 A-rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be-night-ed sphere.

The Bride-groom is a-ris-ing And soon is draw-ing nigh.  
 The mar-riage feast is wait-ing; The gates wide o-pen stand.  
 A-round the throne of glo-ry The Lamb they shall be-hold;  
 With hearts and hands up-lift-ed, We plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres-tle; At mid-night comes the cry.  
 A-rise, O heirs of glo-ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.  
 In tri-umph cast be-fore Him Their di-a-dems of gold.  
 The day of earth's re-demp-tion That sets Your peo-ple free!

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