

## **CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD**

DECEMBER 17, 2023

Hymn of Invocation **Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding** 345

**+ The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism +  
*INTROIT PSALM 85***

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. **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 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.**

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,\* and grant us your sal- | vation.

### ***COLLECT OF THE DAY***

**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.**

### ***PSALM 126***

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. **Then our mouth  
was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;** then they said among the  
nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” The LORD has done great things for us; we  
are glad. **Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!** Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy! **He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall  
come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.**

**Glory 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.**

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy

### ***APPOINTED READINGS***

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 17 December 2023

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24 John 1:6–8, 19–28

## ***The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness***

- When he preaches repentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God “as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him” (John 1:7). He baptizes with water in order to “make straight the way of the Lord,” who shall redeem His people from their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus “who comes after” John now stands among us and makes Himself known to us (John 1:26–27).
- He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit “to bring good news to the poor” and “to bind up the brokenhearted” (Is. 61:1). By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with “the garments of salvation” and adorns her with His own righteousness “as a bride adorns herself with her jewels” (Is. 61:10).
- Therefore, we “rejoice always” in the Lord, “pray without ceasing” and “give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thess. 5:16–18). For “the God of peace,” who has called you by the Gospel, will surely “sanctify you completely,” so that “your whole spirit and soul and body” will “be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:23–24).

CONFESSON OF OUR COMMON FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

Hymn of the Day *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* 398

SERMON NOTES

*The LORD has Anointed Me* Isaiah 61:1-2

*The Spirit of the Almighty Lord is with me because the Lord has anointed me to deliver good news to humble people. He has sent me to heal those who are brokenhearted, to announce that captives will be set free, and prisoners will be released. He has sent me to announce the year of the Lord's good will and the day of our God's vengeance, to comfort all those who grieve. Having put on Christ in our Baptism, as little anointed ones we share God's joy in coming close to the lowly, announcing to captives, freedom and to prisoners, release, and the final display of His justice and mercy.*

1. **God's anointing Spirit brings us close to the brokenhearted**
  1. Christ befriends the humble and lowly, having humbled Himself
  2. Those who mourn are no stranger to the brokenhearted
2. **God's anointing Spirit brings freedom and release from all that binds**
  1. Jesus' gift of forgiveness gives hope and new life
  2. As light dispels darkness, Divine Presence destroys demons
3. **God's anointing Spirit reveals the final Jubilee of His justice and mercy**
  1. When these things begin to happen, lift up your heads
  2. He shall cast down the mighty from their thrones

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH. THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 17 DECEMBER 2023

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

Almighty God, You sent John the Baptist to proclaim the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Grant that we who prepare to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ may die to sin and rise to new life, that we may treasure up and ponder in our hearts the Christ announced by Your forerunner. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You sent John to proclaim the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. Richly and daily forgive our sins and the sins of all believers. Bless Matthew, our Synod president; Roger, our district president; Stephen, our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ. Gather and preserve Your Holy Christian Church by Your voice, and send us faithful preachers who will not deny but confess Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly 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. Preserve them from dangers to body and soul, guide them by Your Word in wise paths, and keep them firm in the faith until life's end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous Lord, You rule over all things in heaven and on earth. Until that day when Your Son comes in glory to usher in His kingdom, give wisdom and insight to all leaders, that we may live peaceable lives. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of all, many in our midst have been afflicted with pain, sickness, trials and difficulties. Be merciful to those who are close to us, [*especially \_\_\_\_\_,*] that they may be granted health or strength to endure their afflictions. Help us all to see that when Christ returns in glory, our bodies will be incorruptible and immortal when He makes all things new. Lord, in Your mercy, **ur prayer.**

Heavenly Father, Your Church eagerly awaits the return of her Bridegroom. Grant that we would not grow weary. Strengthen us through Your Word and Sacraments, that we would ever hold fast Your promise of salvation won for us by Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* 515