

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 11, 2022  
8:30am and 11:00am



Central Lutheran Church  
1857 Potter Street  
Eugene, Oregon  
541-345-0395  
[www.connecttocentral.org](http://www.connecttocentral.org)

## Welcome to Worship!

**A special welcome to all who are worshipping with us today.** If you are new to our community or a first-time visitor, we invite you to fill out the pew card and indicate if you'd like to hear from us. You may then place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's Table to receive the body and blood of Christ. Gluten free wafers are available as are red wine or white grape juice.

**Today is the Third Sunday of Advent:** Advent which means coming, is a season of hope, a reflective time for preparation as we make our journey to Bethlehem to see and rejoice in the miracles at the stable. In keeping with the season, the music of the liturgy reflects this mood. The Cantic of Praise, *Glory to God in the Highest*, which the angels sang that first Christmas Eve is silenced until our Christmas Eucharist. We wish you a blessed and reflective time of joy as we prepare to meet the Babe in the manger.

**Advent wreath: The Third Candle—the Joy Candle**—reminds us that Jesus is coming again and all people will then see God's salvation. This will be cause for great joy and celebration. It is also known as the Peace Candle, reminding us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Christ is God's peace to us, who keeps our hearts and minds at rest, no matter what turmoil we experience in our lives.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

### PRELUDE

*Puer natus in Bethlehem*

Rebecca Groom Te Velde

### WELCOME

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *(please stand as you're able)*

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination*

**Most Merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ God gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

# PROCESSIONAL CAROL #435 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing, once for our sal -  
 2 Now re - demp - tion long - ex - spect - ed, comes in sol - emn  
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -

va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at -  
 splen - dor near; all the saints this world re -  
 ter - nal throne; Sav - ior, take the pow'r and

tend - ing join to sing the glad re - frain:  
 ject - ed thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:  
 glo - ry claim the king - dom as thine own.


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 lu - ia, See the day of God ap - pear!  
 lu - ia, Thou shalt reign, and thou shalt alone!


# GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**


## KYRIE




In peace, let us pray to the Lord.




Lord, have mer - cy.




For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.




Lord, have mer - cy.




For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God,



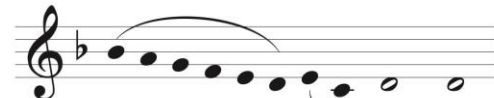
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.




Lord have mer-cy.




For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.



A - men.

*The Canticle of Praise is omitted during Advent until we join the angels singing "Glory to God in the highest" on Christmas.*

## SALUTATION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

*Amen. (please be seated)*

## HYMN Light One Candle



1. Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2. Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3. Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He \_\_\_ shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el God ful-fills the prom - ise.  
He \_\_\_ shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift \_\_\_ your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christi's advent. As we light the candle on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*(Three candles are lit.)*

## **FIRST LESSON    Isaiah 35:1-10**

<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 are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. 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 the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall 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; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No 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.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

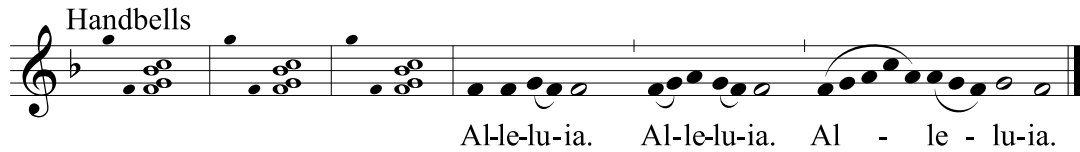
**ANTHEM (8:30)**      *Ave Rex Angelorum*      John Tavener      Chorale  
*Hail, King of the Angels*

## **SECOND LESSON    James 5:7-10**

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.    The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA (*please stand*)

Handbells



Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al - le - lu-ia.

Cantor: I am sending my messen-<sup>1</sup>ger before you,\* who will prepare your  
<sup>1</sup>way before you. *Assembly repeats Antiphon.*

## GOSPEL Matthew 11:2-11

The Gospel according to Matthew the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see:

<sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And

blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” <sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the

wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <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 the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

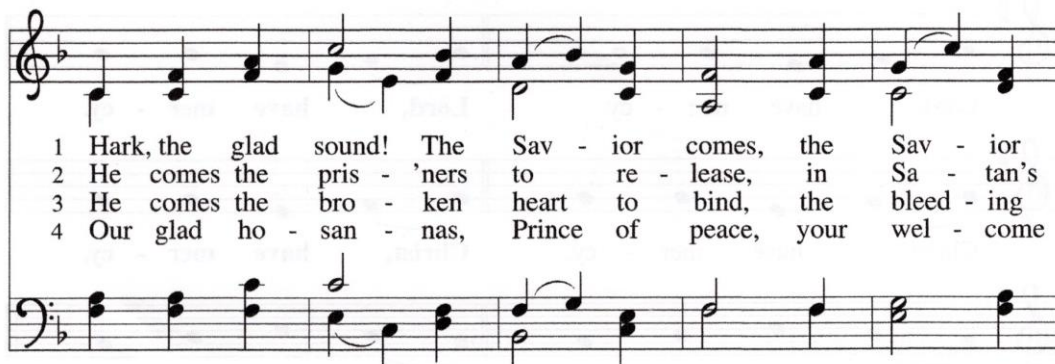
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Ben Nickodemus



# CAROL OF THE DAY #239 Hark, The Glad Sound! *(please stand)*



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, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

## **NICENE CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our Christian faith.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. *(please be seated)***

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

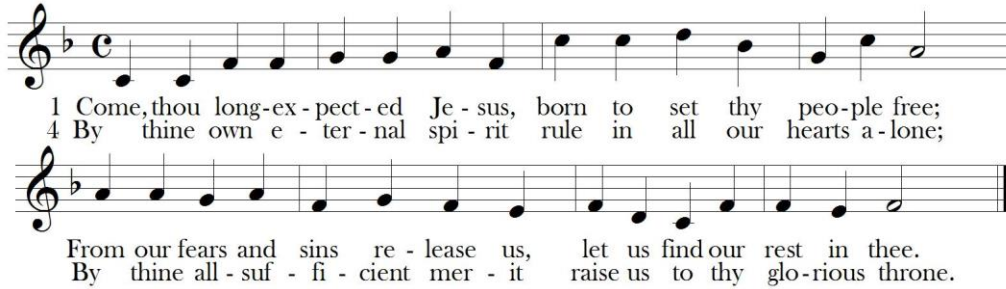
### **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY (8:30)** *Creator of the Stars at Night*

Chorale

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE (8:30) *(please stand)*



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;  
From our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
By thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread and wine and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

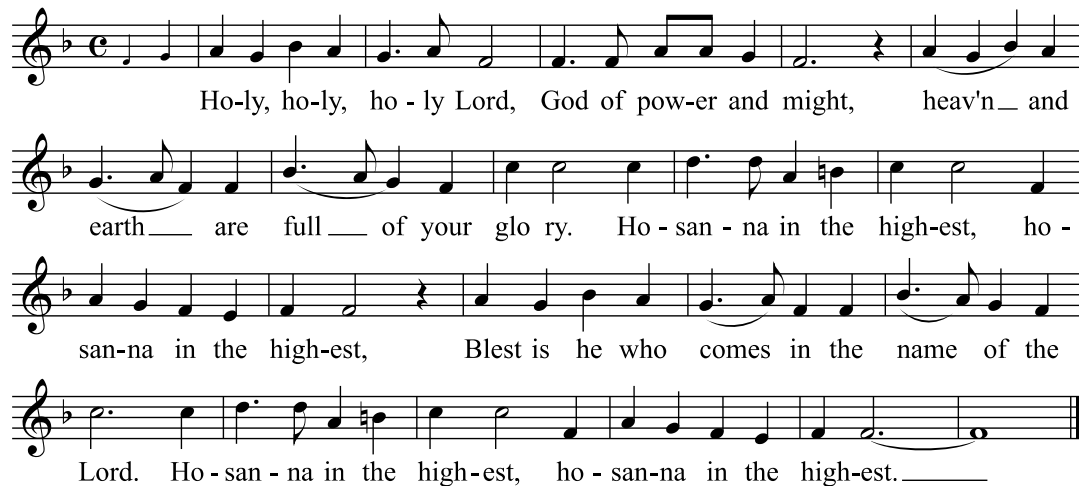
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n\_ and  
earth\_\_ are full\_\_ of your glo ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho -  
san-na in the high-est, Blest is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho - san-na in the high-est.\_\_\_\_\_

Richard Proulx

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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. (please be seated)*

## LAMB OF GOD

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 of sin the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,  
You take a-way the of sin the world; grant us peace. A - men

**COMMUNION MUSIC** *Benedicamus Domino* Rebecca Te Velde

## BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## OUR LIFE TOGETHER

### **BENEDICTION** *(please stand as you're able)*

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

# CAROL #248 People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY** *With Deo gracias always*      Rebecca Te Velde

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**Cantor at 11am:** Honora Mathisen-Lund

**Dinner Groups Christmas Party** is today, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the home of Rosie & Gale Hatleberg (88000 Heather Dr. Springfield). Don't forget your white elephant gift for the exchange.

## **Remainder of our Advent & Christmas Worship Schedule**

### **Holden Evening Prayer**

Tuesday at 7pm (Dec. 13)

### **Advent Worship and Holy Communion**

Sunday at 8:30am\* & 11am (Dec. 18)

### **Blue Christmas Service**

Tuesday, at 7pm (Dec. 20)

### **Christmas Eve Manger Service at 4:30pm\***

### **Christmas Eve Festival Worship at 9:30pm\***

### **Christmas Day Worship - Sunday, December 25th at 10am\***

### **8<sup>th</sup> Day of Christmas Worship - Sunday, January 1st at 10am\***

Services denoted with an asterisk (\*) will also be live-streamed and available later as a podcast.

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