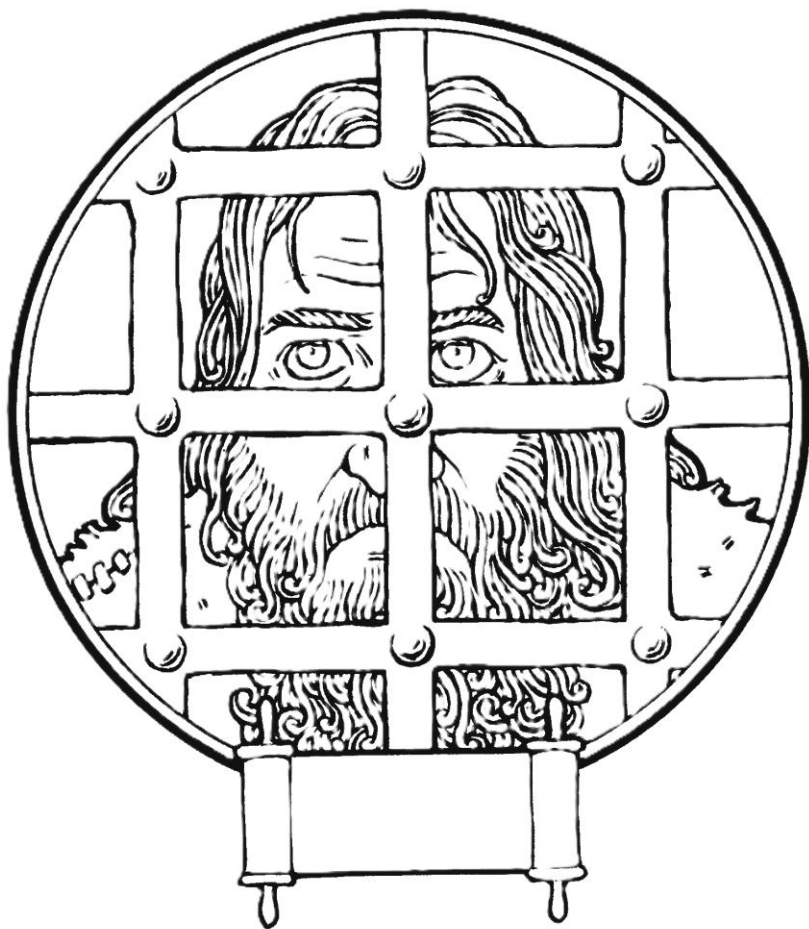


**Third Sunday in Advent  
Divine Service Setting Four  
December 14, 2025**



**The Way of Holiness**



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  
 Δ 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!

*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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Exhortation

LSB 203

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

## Confession of Sins

LSB 203

- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

## Absolution

LSB 203

- 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 ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

- P** Rejoice in the Lord always;
- C** again I will say, Rejoice.
- P** I will hope continually
- C** and will praise you yet more and more.
- P** My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,
- C** for their number is past my knowledge.
- P** With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;
- C** I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.
- P** O God, from my youth you have taught me,
- C** and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.
- P** So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,
- C** until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.
- C** 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** Rejoice in the Lord always;
- C** again I will say, Rejoice.



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

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also 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** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

*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 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.  
<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 gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*James 5:7–11*

<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.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Alleluia

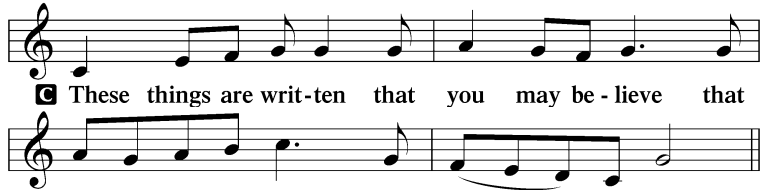
LSB 205



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

## Verse

LSB 205



These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that  
Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

## Alleluia

LSB 205



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

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

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

**C** **Glory to You, 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. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the

violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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

**C** Praise to You, 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  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

### 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

LSB 352



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'  
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send  
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,  
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head  
 That, set free from doubt and dread,  
 I may cling to You in faith,  
 Safely kept through life and death.
- 6 Then when You will come again  
 As the glorious king to reign,  
 I with joy will see Your face,  
 Freely ransomed by Your grace.

### Sermon; The Way of Holiness

Stand

### Prayer of the Church

Sit

### Offertory

LSB 192



☐ 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.

## Service of the Sacrament

*In this congregation, we recognize the true presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Because those who receive unworthily do so to their great harm, and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith of this altar, those who hold a confession differing from that of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are asked to speak with the pastor before communing.*

*Stand*

### Preface

LSB 208

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus


LSB 208



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



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

- C** **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 Words of Our Lord

**P** 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  $\text{†}$  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  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**G** Amen.

## Agnus Dei


LSB 210



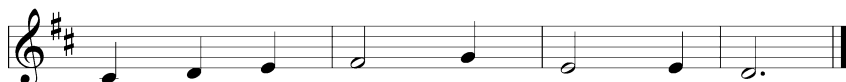
**G** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## 341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Be - hold, the  
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot  
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ 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  
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -  
 rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py  
 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 -  
 ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of  
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less  
 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.  
 all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.  
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.  
 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 Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts 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.

## 334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

LSB 334



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
 3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.  
 4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new  
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.  
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.  
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

- 5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
Cannot His love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing  
Eternal life in heav'n.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations,  
A terror to His foes,  
A light of consolations  
And blessed hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing.  
O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Your beams so cheering,  
And guide us safely home.

# 337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending

LSB 337



1 The night will soon be end - ing; The dawn can -  
 2 The One whom an - gels tend - ed Comes near, a  
 3 The earth in sure ro - ta - tion Will soon bring  
 4 Yet nights will bring their sad - ness And rob our  
 5 God dwells with us in dark - ness And makes the



not be far. Let songs of praise as - cend - ing Now  
 child, to serve; Thus God, the judge of - fend - ed, Bears  
 morn - ing bright, So run where God's sal - va - tion Glows  
 hearts of peace, And sin in all its mad - ness A -  
 night as day; Yet we re - sist the bright - ness And



greet the Morn - ing Star! All you whom dark - ness  
 all our sins de - serve. The guilt - y need not  
 in a sta - ble's light. As old as sin's per -  
 round us may in - crease. But now one Star is -  
 turn from God a - way. But grace does not for -



fright - ens With guilt or grief or pain, God's ra - diant  
 cow - er, For God has rec - on - ciled Through His re -  
 ver - sion Is mer - cy's vast de - sign: God brings a  
 beam - ing Whose rays have pierced the night: God comes for  
 sake us, How - ev - er far we run. God claims us



Star now bright - ens And bids you sing a - gain.  
 damp - tive pow - er All those who trust this child.  
 new cre - a - tion—This child its seal and sign.  
 our re - deem - ing From sin's op - pres - sive might.  
 still as chil - dren Through Mar - y's in - fant Son.

*Stand*

# Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.
- C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

LSB 212

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

- 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.

# 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347



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.

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