

# Saint Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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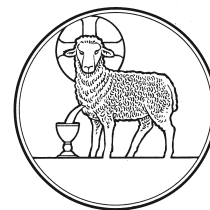
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## Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2020



**Color of the Day:** BLUE—the color of the sky—helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky he ascended long ago. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope.

### OPENING HYMN

#347 - Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



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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### + CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

(Stand)

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

**G** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*(Kneel/Stand)*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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.

**C** **Amen.**

*(Stand)*

## + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

### INTROIT

*Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7*

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 be 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.

### GLORIA PATRI



**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;

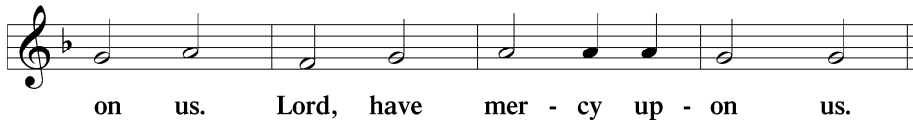


as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

### KYRIE



**C** Lord, have mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer-cy up-



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



**P** The Lord be with you.



**G** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

**P** 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.



**G** A - men.  
(Sit)

### 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.

## GRADUAL

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.\*  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.  
Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;\*  
righteous and having sal- | vation.  
Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.\*  
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

## 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.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(Stand)*

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 1:6–8, 19–28*

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

**C** Glory be to Thee, 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>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.

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## 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 † everlasting. Amen.

(Sit)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

#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**

**Getting Ready**

John 1:6-8, 19-28

**Introduction**

This morning our countdown \_\_\_\_\_.

**John Came to Get the People Ready**

John the Baptist came to \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus is the Light, \_\_\_\_\_.

**John Confessed**

John came to testify \_\_\_\_\_.

When he was questioned \_\_\_\_\_.

Rather, John did confess \_\_\_\_\_.

And John knew his \_\_\_\_\_.

Again, he was questioned \_\_\_\_\_.

**Getting Ready for Christmas**

In much the same way as John came to get \_\_\_\_\_.

Our Christmas preparations \_\_\_\_\_.

A more recent custom \_\_\_\_\_.

Our Christmas preparations \_\_\_\_\_.

Most of us include the custom \_\_\_\_\_.

For many the season \_\_\_\_\_.

**Our Getting Ready for Christmas**

My intent this morning \_\_\_\_\_.

Most important in getting ready for Christmas is \_\_\_\_\_.

Hindsight is twenty-twenty \_\_\_\_\_.

As I have said from time to time \_\_\_\_\_.

**Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:**

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Miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine (teachings), check out Pastor's blog at: <http://rabswritings.blogspot.com/> or Pastor Mendez's new blog at: <https://pastormendez.blogspot.com/>  
(Stand)

## OFFERTORY

**C** 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.

(Sit)

## OFFERING

(Stand)

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

## PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And with thy spir - it.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.  
**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## PROPER PREFACE (FULL)

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. 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



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



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## LORD'S PRAYER

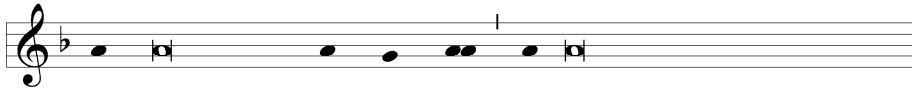
**P** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD



**P** Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My <sup>†</sup> bod - y, which is giv-en for you.



This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so

He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv - en thanks, He gave it  
to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in  
My blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.  
This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

**PAX DOMINI**

The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.  
A - men.

**AGNUS DEI**

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.  
(Sit)

**DISTRIBUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

#834 - O God, O Lord Of Heaven And Earth

1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth, Thy liv - ing  
2 Our fa - tal will to e - qual Thee, Our reb - el  
3 Thou cam - est to our hall of death, O Christ, to  
△ 4 O Spir - it, who didst once re - store Thy Church that





fin - ger nev - er wrote That life should be an aim -  
 will wrought death and night. We seized and used in pride -  
 breathe our poi - soned air, To drink for us the dark  
 it might be a - gain The bring - er of good news



less mote, A death - ward drift from fu - tile birth.  
 ful spite Thy won - drous gift of lib - er - ty.  
 de - spair That stran - gled our re - luc - tant breath.  
 to men, Breathe on Thy clo - ven Church once more,



Thy Word meant life tri - um - phant hurled In splen - dor through  
 We housed us in this house of doom, Where death had roy -  
 How beau - ti - ful the feet that trod The road that leads  
 That in these gray and lat - ter days There may be those



Thy bro - ken world. Since light a - woke and life be - gan,  
 al scope and room, Un - til Thy ser - vant, Prince of Peace,  
 us back to God! How beau - ti - ful the feet that ran  
 whose life is praise, Each life a high dox - ol - o - gy



Thou hast de - sired Thy life for man.  
 Breached all its walls for our re - lease.  
 To bring the great good news to man!  
 To Fa - ther, Son, and un - to Thee.

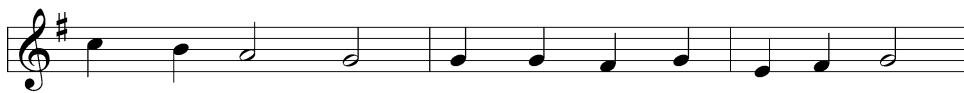
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**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**#350 - Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come**



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.

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**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**#624 - The Infant Priest Was Holy Born**



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -  
 2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con  
 3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own  
 4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who



ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple  
 of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought  
 al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels  
 hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the



forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.  
 sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.  
 hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.  
 Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,  
 As at the rail on bended knee  
 Our hungry mouths from Him receive  
 The bread of immortality.

6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,  
 A priestly food and priestly meat;  
 On sin-parched lips the chalice pours  
 His quenching blood that life restores.

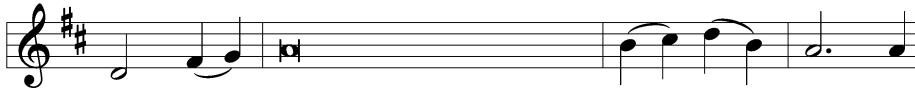
7 With cherubim and seraphim  
 Our voices join the endless hymn,  
 And "Holy, holy, holy" sing  
 To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

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(Stand)

**NUNC DIMITTIS**



Lord, now letttest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

**THANKSGIVING**

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**G** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

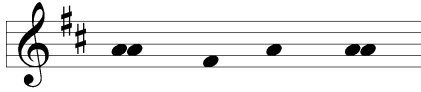
**A** Let us pray.  
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** A - men.

**SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**G** And with thy spir - it.

## BENEDICAMUS

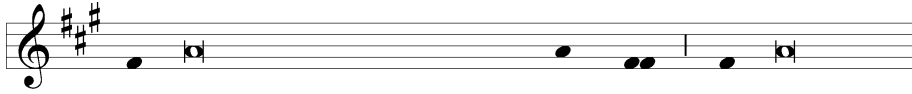


**A** Bless we the Lord.

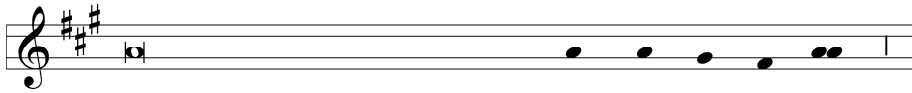


**G** Thanks be to God.

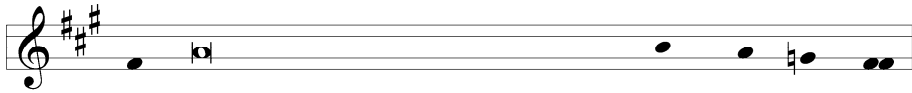
## BENEDICTION



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



**G** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## CLOSING HYMN

#921 - On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;  
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;  
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou  
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -  
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!  
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.  
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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