

“Those Living in  
Anguish have  
Seen a Glorious  
LIGHT!”



Third Sunday in Advent

## The Order of Worship

### Pre-Service Music

#### Welcome

#### Preparation for Worship

P: Let us worship and praise our glorious Lord who comes to bless us with his love, who releases us from fear, and who shines in our hearts with his saving light: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It is in his name we pray:

**C: O gracious God and Lord, who proclaims his faithful promise and keeps it, be with us and bless us through your Word. Bring us guidance and comfort. Give us both light and life through the coming Savior so that we can joyfully praise you—our God, our Lord, our Savior, and our Comforter. Amen.**

#### Opening Hymn

“Arise and Shine in Splendor”

*Christian Worship 81*

#### The Confession of Sins

*1 John 1:5-10*

P: Dearly loved in the Lord! <sup>5</sup>This is the message we heard from him and proclaim to you: God is light. In him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him but still walk in darkness, we are lying and do not put the truth into practice. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, just as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar, and his Word is not in us.

P: Recognizing we have sinned, and acknowledging God’s Word has brought us to repentance, let us join in confessing those sins we know, and even those of which we are not aware.

**C: O Almighty God, merciful Father, I a poor miserable sinner must plead guilty to all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you. I must also confess I justly deserve your punishment, for now and for all eternity. But I am truly sorry I have sinned against you, and I humbly repent of every evil I have done. I also place myself at your mercy, and I pray that for the sake the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your dearly loved Son Jesus Christ, you would be gracious and merciful to me a sinner.**

**Absolution**

*1 John 2:1-2*

P: The apostle John writes: My children, I write these things to you so that you will not sin. If anyone does sin, we have an Advocate before the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. <sup>2</sup>He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

P: Now, as a called servant of God's Word, I can assure you he has heard and answered your prayer. He has forgiven all your sins. He has removed your guilt forever. He has brought you out of darkness and into his wonderful light. All this he did through the precious work of his Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Be confident all is forgiven. Live in his grace and peace. Rejoice that God has brought you out of the darkness of death and into light and life of heaven.

**C: Amen.**

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**Song of Praise**

“Christ is the World's Light”

*Christian Worship 343 st. 1, 3-4*

Christ is the world's light, Christ and none other;  
Born in our darkness, he became our brother.  
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:  
Glory to God on high!

Christ is the world's life, Christ and none other;  
Sold once for sliver, murdered here, our brother.  
He who redeemed us reigns with God the Father:  
Glory to God on high!

Give God the glory, God and none other;  
Give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;  
Give God the glory, God with us, my brother:  
Glory to God on high!

### **Prayer for the Day**

P: O gracious Savior, you are the Light of the world, and you have come into our hearts and lives to bring light and life. In all humility we ask, come with your blessing. Shatter the gloom of our disobedience. Shine through the darkness of our guilt. Burst through our deep anguish of souls with the brilliant light of your mercy. Bless us with the joyful hope you alone can give for this life, and the never-ending joy of the life to come. Bless us with the light of your heavenly glory as we live with you, your Father and the Spirit throughout all eternity.



C: A ——— men.

### **The Lessons from God's Word** *"Your Word is the Joy of My Heart!"*

#### **Old Testament**

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the desert will be glad. The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a crocus. <sup>2</sup>It will bloom lavishly, and there will be great joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it. It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make the shaky knees steady.

<sup>4</sup>Tell those who have a fearful heart: Be strong. Do not be afraid.

Look! Your God will come with vengeance. With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged. <sup>6</sup>The crippled will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy. Waters will flow in the wilderness, and streams in the wasteland. <sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool, and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water. There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts of jackals once lay.

<sup>8</sup>A highway will be there, a road that will be called the holy way. The impure will not walk there. It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way. Wicked fools will not wander onto it. <sup>9</sup>No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious animal go up on it. They will not be found there, but only the redeemed will walk there.

<sup>10</sup>Then those ransomed by the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with a joyful shout, and everlasting joy will crown their heads. Happiness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

**Psalm of the Day**

*Psalm 91*

*(The congregation will read responsively )*

P: <sup>1</sup> The one who lives in the shelter of the Most High will stay in the shadow of the Almighty.

**C: <sup>2</sup> I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust."**

P: <sup>9</sup> Yes, you, LORD, are my refuge!

**C: If you make the Most High your shelter, <sup>10</sup> evil will not overtake you. Disaster will not come near your tent.**

P: <sup>11</sup> Yes, he will give a command to his angels concerning you, to guard you in all your ways.

**C: <sup>12</sup> They will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.**

P: <sup>14</sup> The LORD says, Because he clings to me, I will rescue him.

**C: I will protect him, because he acknowledges my name.**

P: <sup>15</sup> He will call on me, and I will answer him. I will be with him in distress. I will deliver him and I will honor him. <sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy him, and I will let him see my salvation.

**Handbells**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”  
*Arranged by Jason W. Krug*  
*Published by Choristers Guild*

**Epistle**

*James 5:7-11*

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, beloved, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. <sup>8</sup>You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

<sup>9</sup>Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. <sup>11</sup>See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

**Theme for the Day**

P: The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? When my foes and my enemies come against me, it is they who will stumble and fall.

One thing I ask from the LORD. This is why I seek: that I may live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD, and to seek him in his temple.

**Congregation sings**

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”  
*Christian Worship 345 st. 1-2*

In the cross of Christ I glory  
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
Hopes deceive and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me;  
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure  
By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
Joys that through all times abide.

### **Gospel**

*Matthew 11:2-11*

<sup>2</sup>While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, "Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?"

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, "Go, report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me."

<sup>7</sup>As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, 'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup>Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P: This is the Word of our God—our comfort in distress, our strength in temptation, and our hope in despair.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

### **The Confession of Faith**

*(we unite in the words of the Apostles' Creed)*

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated  
at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there 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.**

### **Hymn of the Day**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”  
*Christian Worship 19*

### **Sermon**

*Isaiah 9:1-2*

<sup>1</sup>Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was



in anguish. In the former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

### **A Glorious Light has Dawned** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **“Light for Those Enduring the Burden of Anguish”**

Gloom and shame are removed

Joy and peace are restored

### **Service of the Advent Candle**

P: In my distress I called upon the Lord, and he delivered me. This was the psalmist’s confidence, and it is ours. In our sadness there is joy. In our gloom there is relief. In our anguish there is comfort. These have been secured and provided by the coming Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one into who we put our hope. He is the one who comes with the glorious light of his rescue and shatters the darkness of our sin-darkened lives.

### **Psalm 25:1-3, 15-18, 20** \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I will lift up my soul. <sup>2</sup>In you I have trusted, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame. Do not let my enemies triumph over me. <sup>3</sup>All who hope in you will never be put to shame, but those who are treacherous for no reason will be put to shame.

<sup>15</sup>My eyes are always on the LORD, because he frees my feet from the net. <sup>16</sup>Turn toward me and be gracious to me, because I am lonely and afflicted. <sup>17</sup>The distress of my heart increases. Bring me out of my anguish. <sup>18</sup>See my affliction and my trouble, and take away all my sins.

<sup>20</sup>Guard my life and rescue me. Do not let me be put to shame, for I have taken refuge in you.

**Luke 21:25-33** 

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<sup>5</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. And on the earth nations will be in anguish, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the surging waves, <sup>26</sup> people fainting from fear and expectation of the things coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> But when these things begin to happen, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near.”

<sup>29</sup> He told them a parable. “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. <sup>30</sup> As soon as they are sprouting leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is actually near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Amen I tell you: This generation will not pass away until all these things happen. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

**Psalm 116:1-5** 

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<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, because he hears my voice.

He hears my cry for mercy.

<sup>2</sup> Because he turned his ear to me,

I will call to him all my days.

<sup>3</sup> The ropes of death entangled me.

The walls of the grave hemmed me in.

I found distress and sorrow.

<sup>4</sup> Then I called on the name of the LORD:

“Ah, LORD, please save my life!”

<sup>5</sup> The LORD is gracious and righteous,

and our God is compassionate.

**The Lighting of the Candle of Proclamation****Advent Candle Song****“O Christ, Our True and Only Light”***Christian Worship 569 st. 1-4*

O Christ, our true and only light,

Enlighten those who sit in night;  
Let those afar now hear your voice  
And in your fold with us rejoice.

Fill with the radiance of your grace  
The souls now lost in error's maze  
And all whom in their secret minds  
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

Oh, gently call those gone astray  
That they may find the saving way!  
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed  
In you find peace and heav'nly rest.

Shine on the darkened and the cold;  
Recall the wand'ers to your fold.  
Unite all those who walk apart;  
Confirm the weak and doubting heart.

## Thanksgiving and Prayer

### **Prayer for the Day**

*Special Prayers and Requests*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*(the congregation will join with the pastor)*

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

**Hymn**

“Renew Me, O Eternal Light”  
*Christian Worship 471*

**Closing Prayer**

P: O coming Lord and Savior, you give us a most gracious invitation. You call us to leave the darkness of our anguish and gloom to walk in the light of new life. It is only because of that invitation we can come to know true joy and lasting peace. Send us your Holy Spirit to gladly receive your Word of Truth. Strengthen our faith to put our complete trust in your words of promise. Lead us by your glorious light through this vale of tears to the eternal joys of heaven. There we will live in your light and in your presence—our only true God, who lives and rules together with the Father and the Spirit—for all eternity.



C: A ——— men.

**The Benediction**

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace; live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord in gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;

The Lord look on you with his favor; and  
give you peace.



C: A — men. A — men. A ——— men.

## Closing Hymn

“Hark the Glad Sound!”  
*Christian Worship 12*

## Silent Prayer

### Announcements

**Today**—*Welcome in the name of our ever faithful and ever loving Savior.* May the light and life he comes to bring fill your lives with joyful hope as you walk in the brightness of his light. If you are visiting this morning, please sign the guest book. Come back and worship with us again, soon!

- Everyone is invited to enjoy a cup of coffee and the gift of friendship following the worship service.
- After you get a cup of coffee, please make your way back to the sanctuary for Bible Class. We will consider James’ letter of encouragement to the Church at large, and his message of patience.

**Monday**—Handbell Choir practice at 7:00 pm.

**Tuesday**—Ladies Christmas Get-together and Cookie Exchange. More information is in the service folder, or on the table in the back of the Church. Everything begins at 7:00 pm.

**Wednesday**—Bible Class will meet at 7:00 pm. We will resume the study of “This Changed Everything.” This evenings video and discussion will conclude the study of the “radical reformers,” and the legacy of the Reformation. We will not have class on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December.

**Friday**—Office Hours from 10:30 am—2:30 pm.

**Saturday**—Clean: Hanna

- Lawn beginning December 11th—J. Favuzzi

**Sunday, December 18th—Worship at 9:30 am.** We conclude our Advent worship “A Glorious Light has Dawned.” This week Isaiah leads us to rejoice because there is a light to guide us as we wait for the Lord’s promised coming.

- Christian Education will follow the worship service and will examine the false humility of King Ahaz. The Lord invited him to ask for a sign, but he refused. As we know, the Lord gave him one anyway.

## Thank You

To Al Todd, our Hymnsoft operator; to Josh Schueler and Jim Everson for controlling the audio and video of the live stream; to Karolyn Hanna for placing flowers on the altar to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for his many blessings.

## Ladies Christmas Fellowship

This Tuesday, December 13th, Pam Schueler would like to invite the ladies of Our Redeemer, along with their friends, to her home for an evening of Christmas fellowship, and a cookie exchange. The time will be 7:00 pm. Please speak to Pam, or check the table in the back of the church for more information.

## Church Decorating and Fellowship

Next Sunday, December 18th we will meet at 3:30 pm to decorate the church. It is a time to enjoy fellowship and prepare the sanctuary for our celebration of Jesus' birth. Around 5:30 pm we will have a chili dinner and desserts. Please check the sheet on the table in the back for more information. Also, young and old, singles and families can all help out.

## Acknowledgements

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