

Date: 12/13/25 Season: ADVENT 3 (BLUE)

PASTOR Rev. Orin W Cummings, PhD

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LECTOR Cathy Murrell

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DISTRIBUTION MINISTER Katie Dogwiler

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
In celebration of our baptism, we worship
In the name of God: Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,
**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✝ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

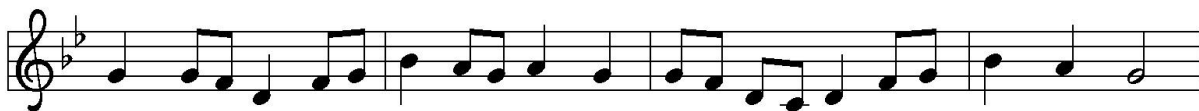
GATHERING HYMN

ELW 254

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST READING FROM ISAIAH 35:1-10

- ¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
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.]]
- ³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
- ⁴ 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."
- ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
- ⁶ 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;
- ⁷ 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.
- ⁸ 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.
- ⁹ 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.
¹⁰ 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.

THE SECOND READING FROM JAMES 5:7-10

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, 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. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 11th Chapter
Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."
⁷ 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? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ 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.'

¹¹ "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

Joyful Expectation

Pastor Orin Cummings

HYMN OF THE DAY

MAGNIFICAT

ELW

THE MAGNIFICAT
Luke 1: 46-55

Capo 3: (G) B \flat (D) F (C) E \flat (G) B \flat

a tempo

1.3. My soul pro - claims your great - ness, O God, and my
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -

(G/B) B \flat /D (C) E \flat (Am7) Cm7 (D) F (G) B \flat (G7) B \flat 7

spir - it re - joic - es in you, You have looked with love on your
lift - ed the hum - ble of heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

(C) E \flat (Am7) Cm7 (G/D) B \flat /F (D7) F7 (C/G) E \flat /B \flat (G) B \flat (D/F#) F/A

3rd time To Coda

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

The musical score is written for a vocal part (soprano or alto) and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is common time (C). The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano line. Chord markings are provided above the vocal line for each measure.

System 1:

Chords: (Em) Gm, (Bm) Dm, (C) Eb, (G) Bb, (Am) Cm, (D7) F7

Vocal: Great and might-y are you, O Ho-ly One, strong is your kind-ness
Great and might-y are you, O Faith-ful One, strong is your jus-tice,

System 2:

Chords: (G) Bb, (D/F#) F/A, (Em) Gm, (Bm) Dm, (C) Eb, (G) Bb

Vocal: ev-er-more. How you fa-vor the weak and low-ly one,
strong your love, As you prom-ised to Sar-ah and A-bra-ham,

System 3:

Chords: (Am7) Cm7, (D7) rit. F7, Coda (C) Eb, (G) Bb, (D7) F7, (C) Eb, (G) Bb

Vocal: hum-bling the proud of heart. through. segue
kind-ness for-ev-er-more.

The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and a treble line with chords and moving lines. A double bar line with repeat dots appears after the first system. A handwritten note "I bless you" is written above the piano line in the third system. The word "rit." (ritardando) is written below the piano line in the third system. The word "segue" appears at the end of the vocal line and below the piano line in the third system.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us affirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of power and mercy, we praise you for Jesus and his acts of healing and liberation. Lead us to proclaim the good news from generation to generation, that all may place their hope in you. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

When lands are parched and dry, bring rain and snow; where wilderness is barren, sow seeds of life. Fill the lands with trees that grow, plants that flower, and creatures that thrive, as nature proclaims the wonder of your works. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

When there is injustice or corruption among nations and leaders, root it out. Where there is war, especially in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and the Americas, bring peace. Turn our leaders attention to inequity and the cries of the poor. Instill a deeper sense of compassion and care in all who govern. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

When bodies weaken and hearts grow fearful, speak your blessing. We pray especially for Lynn Russell, Pastor Mike, Marilyn, Sam Coryell, Sally McCarville, John Flanders, Norma Isenberg, Bruce Whiting, Jessica Smith, Jim Shoelpple, Sandy Skoglund-Young, Christine Kennedy, Gabe Derr, Jacob Russell-Rivera, Juanita Steinbaugh, Andrew Langr, Ray Hollingstad, Mark Krueger, Bob White, Tommy Brewer, and Beverly Carlson. In uncertain times, remind us of the promise spoken to our ancestors in faith. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

When people are imprisoned or held captive, break the chains and offer release. Strengthen the work of the church in restorative justice, breaking cycles of poverty, and welcoming the immigrant especially we pray for Global Refuge and Lutheran Social Services. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

As we await your coming, we give thanks for the faithful who have lived and died in faith especially Mr. Morris. May we find comfort in the coming Savior. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.
Come, receive what God has promised.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

ELW 464

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: JESUS, FEED US, Ray Makeever

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN

ELW 737

He Comes to Us as One Unknown



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but

Saturday 5:30 p.m.



dark-ness sown, a pulse of be-ing stirred, a pulse of be-ing stirred.
 cross the sky of night with-in the heart, of night with-in the heart.
 tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
 sav-ing name, for ev-'ry child of earth, for ev-'ry child of earth.
 not un-known, our Sav-ior and our Lord, our Sav-ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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TABLE BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our host,
 at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
 Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
 welcome the stranger,
 and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May God who comes among us,
 Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
 grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
 and good news to share today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 279

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893
Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by the Gospel, we:
Welcome all to worship;
Make disciples;
Hunger for ministry;
Nurture youth;
Gather resources for growing ministries;
Offer healing and care to all in need.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

OFFERING

(Please place gifts in the plates as you leave)

POSTLUDE