

# Advent 3

December 11, 2022



## **Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church**

*(Wisconsin Synod)*

1332 Arrowhead Rd.

Grafton, Wisconsin 53024

Church: 262-377-6363 School: 262-377-7780

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:** Dearest Jesus, be with me as I enter your house this day. Calm my mind and heart. Let the message of your grace be now, and always, the focus of my attention and life. Send your Holy Spirit to help me and encourage me as I walk in this world. Empower me to reflect that message to your people with whom I am walking on this holy path to heaven. Amen.

**WORSHIP NOTES:** Welcome to worship at Our Savior! In many homes the trees and houses are fully dressed for the season. Lights, tinsel, stocking, and wreaths are displayed. The holy family and wisemen may be set out as well. The prep is done. Now, we wait. John the Baptist waited anxiously for the savior. He sent his followers to ask Jesus if he was the Messiah. Jesus' words confirmed to him that he was that long awaited savior. We need not have anxiety. Our worship here is praise and thanks that Jesus was who he said he was, and did what he set out do to – make heaven our home. That work is done. It is yours now, no waiting needed. As you worship this morning, push aside the hustle and bustle and welcome the savior of the world, your savior. Our Savior.

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## Welcome

### 308 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

CW 308



- 1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
- 2 O — Chris - tians, you bring — good ti - dings; get
- 3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; the



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a  
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late  
arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!  
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King.  
 na - tions, and he shall right the wrong.



The val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the  
 Like the flow'rs of the field they per - ish; like  
 He shall feed his flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed  
 grass their works de - cay. The pow'r and pomp of  
 lambs shall gent - ly hold, to pas - tures of peace shall



plac - es where the Lord our God may go!  
 na - tions shall pass like a dream - a - way.  
 lead them, and bring them safe to his fold.

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876–1961, alt.  
 Tune: Henry H. Bancroft, 1904–1988  
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*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the [+] Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Confession**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just**

**and will forgive us our sins**

**and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the [+] Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

### Glory to God in the Highest



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther. We



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



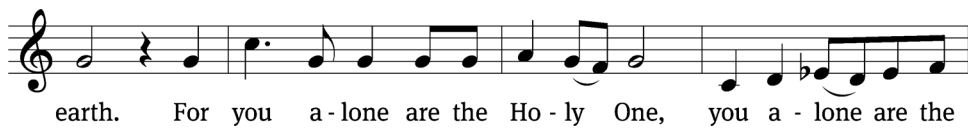
us; you are seated at the right hand of the



Fa-ther: receive our prayer, receive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the highest and peace to his people on



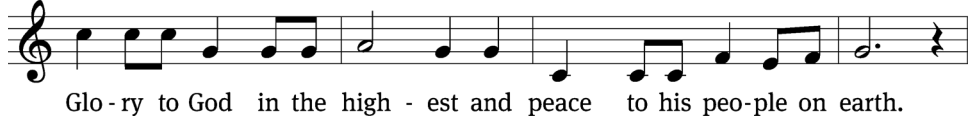
earth. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the



Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the



Ho-ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.



Glo-ry to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.



Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God.

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer  
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## The Word

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

### First Reading

*Isaiah 35*

<sup>1</sup>The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup>it will burst into bloom;  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the feeble hands,  
steady the knees that give way;  
<sup>4</sup>say to those with fearful hearts,  
“Be strong, do not fear;  
your God will come,  
he will come with vengeance;  
with divine retribution  
he will come to save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.  
<sup>6</sup>Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.  
<sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.  
<sup>8</sup>And a highway will be there;  
it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that Way.  
The unclean will not journey on it;  
wicked fools will not go about on it.  
<sup>9</sup>No lion will be there,  
nor any ravenous beast;  
they will not be found there.  
But only the redeemed will walk there,  
<sup>10</sup>and those the LORD has rescued will return.  
They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm of the Day**

**Psalm 146**

see page 15



## Second Reading

*James 5:7–11*

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. <sup>8</sup>You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. <sup>9</sup>Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

<sup>10</sup>Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

*Matthew 11:10*

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.**

**Alleluia.**

## Gospel

*Matthew 11:2–11*

<sup>2</sup>When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

<sup>4</sup>Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

<sup>7</sup>As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup>If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. <sup>9</sup>Then what 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:

“ ‘I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

### 324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CW 324



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
3 Re - jice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,  
4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;  
5 He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.  
your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.  
a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace  
De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door  
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,  
who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.  
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!  
who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.  
his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.  
send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: tr. composite; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## **Sermon      Isaiah 35      “The Way of Holiness”**

*Stand*

### **Apostles' Creed**

**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.**

*Be seated*

### **Prayer of the Church**

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

### **Offering**

While the offerings are gathered, we ask members and guests, fill in the Friendship Register and pass the entire pad to the person next to you.

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

*Stand*

## Blessing

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 favor and [+ ] give you peace.

Amen.

### 517 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

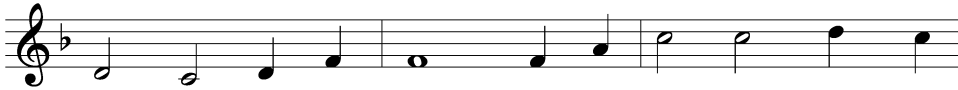
CW 517



- 1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness with a lib - er -
- 2 Praise the one who blessed the chil - dren with a strong, yet
- 3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; praise the one who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing  
gen - tle, word; praise the one who drove out de - mons with the  
in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious that we



blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the one who preached the  
pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool  
may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, calm - ing  
wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand; from this  
glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done; let us



storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the Fa - ther's word of peace.  
well comes liv - ing wa - ter, quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
praise the true Re - deem - er, praise the one who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt.

Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

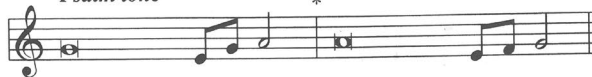
## Psalm 146

### *Refrain*



I will praise your name for - ev - er, my King and my God.

### *Psalm tone*



Praise the LORD, Ó my soul.\*

I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.

Do not put your trust in princes,\*  
in mortal men, who cannot save.

Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD his God,\*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

### *Refrain*

The LORD gives food to the hungry,\*  
the LORD sets prisoners free.

The LORD gives sight to the blind,\*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down.

The LORD watches over the outcast\*  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow.

The LORD remains faithful forever.\*  
He upholds the cause of the oppressed.

**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.**

### *Refrain*

## THIS WEEK AT OUR SAVIOR

Sunday (12/11)	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	9:15 AM	Adult & Teen Bible Study
	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	<b>9:15 AM</b>	Bible Information Class
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
Monday	5:30 PM	Elders Meeting
	7:00 PM	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	4:00 PM	Public School Confirmation Class
Thursday	<b>3:30 PM</b>	<b>Advent Mid- Week Worship Service</b>
	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Advent Mid- Week Worship Service</b>
Saturday	7:00 AM	Men's Breakfast Bible Study.
Sunday (12/18)	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>Worship Service w/communion</b>
	9:15 AM	Adult & Teen Bible Study
	9:15 AM	Sunday School Christmas Practice
	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Worship Service w/communion</b>

*LiveStream on Youtube Channel at 10:30am every Sunday  
This service is also recorded for review after livestream.  
Link on our website (see below).*

## THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP SERVICE

**PREACHING:**  
Jeremiah Backhaus

**ORGANIST:**  
Robert Klug

**HYMNS:** AS PRINTED

**FIRST READING:**  
Isaiah 35

**SECOND READING:**  
James 5:7-11

**GOSPEL READING:**  
Matthew 11:2-11

**THE SERMON:**  
Isaiah 35

## OUR SAVIOR EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

(Wisconsin Synod)

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