



St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church Blue Point
3rd Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

354 Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354

- 1 Arise, O Christian people!
Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.

- 2 Prepare the way before Him;
Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him,
This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way:
The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing,
His path all even lay.

- 3 The humble heart and lowly
God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror
The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right,
That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation—
It is the Lord's delight.

- 4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You
This blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly
And forth Your glory show.

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Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **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

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Ps. 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: Ps. 85:7

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

**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 before him
and make his footsteps a way.

**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.**

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

Kyrie

LSB 186

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

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 61:1–4, 8–11

¹The 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;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to 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.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For 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.

⁹Their 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.

¹⁰I 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.

¹¹For 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.**

Psalm

Psalm 126 (antiphon: v. 5)

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

**²Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great things for them.”**

³The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!

⁵Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

**⁶He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with
him.**

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now 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. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

**Alleluia. Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will
prepare your way before you. Alleluia.**

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.**

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These 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 T everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

343 Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story:

- ref Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!

- 2 God's people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! (Refrain)

- 3 Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! (Refrain)

- 4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.

So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: (Refrain)

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Sermon—John 1:6-8, 19-28

Theme: The Testimony of John

I. I am not the Christ

II. I am the voice of one crying... prepare!

III. I am not worthy...but He stands among you!

Offertory

LSB 192

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C **It is meet and right so to do.**

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

LSB 195

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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

LSB 197

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 T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P 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 T 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

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

C **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution

337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending

LSB 337

- 1 The night will soon be ending;
The dawn cannot be far.
Let songs of praise ascending
Now greet the Morning Star!
All you whom darkness frightens
With guilt or grief or pain,
God's radiant Star now brightens
And bids you sing again.
- 2 The One whom angels tended
Comes near, a child, to serve;
Thus God, the judge offended,
Bears all our sins deserve.
The guilty need not cower,
For God has reconciled
Through His redemptive power
All those who trust this child.
- 3 The earth in sure rotation
Will soon bring morning bright,
So run where God's salvation
Glows in a stable's light.
As old as sin's perversion
Is mercy's vast design:

God brings a new creation—
This child its seal and sign.

4 Yet nights will bring their sadness
And rob our hearts of peace,
And sin in all its madness
Around us may increase.
But now one Star is beaming
Whose rays have pierced the night:
God comes for our redeeming
From sin's oppressive might.

5 God dwells with us in darkness
And makes the night as day;
Yet we resist the brightness
And turn from God away.
But grace does not forsake us,
However far we run.
God claims us still as children
Through Mary's infant Son.

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346 When All the World Was Cursed

LSB 346

1 When all the world was cursed
By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came
With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal
The greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown,
As Savior he proclaimed.

2 Before he yet was born,
He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord
Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream,
A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him
Of whom the prophets told:

3 Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win.

4 O grant, dear Lord of love,
That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John,
Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk
Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with Him
In His eternal day.

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623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

LSB 623

1 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray
That we may feast on You today;
Beneath these forms of bread and wine
Enrich us with Your grace divine.

2 Give us, who share this wondrous food,
Your body broken and Your blood,
The grateful peace of sins forgiv'n,
The certain joys of heirs of heav'n.

3 By faith Your Word has made us bold
To seize the gift of love retold;
All that You are we here receive,
And all we are to You we give.

4 One bread, one cup, one body, we,
Rejoicing in our unity,
Proclaim Your love until You come
To bring Your scattered loved ones home.

5 Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray:
O keep us steadfast till that day
When each will be Your welcomed guest
In heaven's high and holy feast.

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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

**C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C **and His mercy endureth forever.**

A Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Salutation and Benedicamus

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

- A Bless we the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 202

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.
C **Amen, amen, amen.**

333 Once He Came in Blessing

LSB 333

- 1 Once He came in blessing,
All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly,
Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us;
Hope and freedom gave us.

- 2 Now He gently leads us;
With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven,
Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish
Souls that they may flourish.

- 3 Soon will come that hour
When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor
And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing
Joy beyond comparing.

- 4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing,
That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You
Till in heav'n we bless You.

Ladies Aid and the LYF have goodies left over from the Cookie Walk that took place yesterday. Check the table in the hallway. Free will donations

Service Schedule for Advent and Christmas/New Year

Advent Midweek Services Tuesday, December 1, 8, and 15 at 7 PM (Old Testament Lessons)

Advent Midweek Services Thursday, December 3, 10, and 17 at 7 PM (Epistle Lessons)

December 24th, Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols at 6:30 PM

December 24th, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11 PM

December 25th, Christmas Festival Service 9:30 AM

December 27th, 1st Sunday of Christmas, 9:30 and 11 AM

December 31st, New Year's Eve Service 7 PM

January 1st, New Year's Day service with Installation of officers 9:30 AM

January 3rd, 2nd Sunday of Christmas, 9:30 and 11 AM

If there are any middle school or high school students who would like to help out with the readings for the Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols, please speak to Pastor Speers

The LCC is not hosting an auction this year, so the voters decided that we would try to collect funds to help with the purchase of an Oxygen supply unit. The cost is \$3000. If you would like to participate, please look for the box where the donations are being collected, or place an envelope marked as a gift to the LCC.

Our mission festival commitment is still about \$800 short for this year. Please consider it in your prayers

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Altamont, will be having a Live Nativity on Sunday, December 13 from 5 to 6 PM. It will take place in the north parking lot. Please enter at the intersection of Division and Edwards St.

The Elders have recommended that the members of the congregation to consider wearing a mask as they enter the building and when they leave the sanctuary. Please try to wear a mask if you are going to visit before or after church. Once we are seated and distanced in the congregation, you may take off your mask for the service.

Prayers-For Candy Arnold whose Covid has developed into Pneumonia; For Ron Stuckemeyer who is recovering from surgery; for Doug Kopplin who is recovering from surgery; For Pamela Kaufman who is hospitalized with Covid; For Brien Guy, father of Corey Guy, who is recovering from Covid and Pneumonia; For Stephen Heimgartner waiting for surgery to be rescheduled; For Larry Quandt, father of Jennifer Wendling who is battling illness ; for Carol Polk who is recovering at home; for David Polk who is on hospice; For Blake Mathias; For Zoe Hoehler, daughter of Rev David and Emma Hoehler, who is settling back at home; For those suffering with Covid; For Emma Speers; For a resolution to our elections; For wisdom for our leaders who are trying to deal responsibly with the Covid pandemic.

This Week at St Paul (December 13th-20th)

Sunday: Divine Service 9:30 and 11 AM

Catechism 4 PM

2 Samuel 19-20

Monday:

2 Samuel 21-22

Tuesday: Advent Midweek Service 1 PM

2 Samuel 23-24

Wednesday: Bible Class 10 AM

LYF Meeting 7 PM

1 Kings 1-3

Thursday: Greek 10 AM

Advent Midweek Service 7 PM

1 Kings 4-6

Friday:

1 Kings 7-9

Saturday:

1 Kings 10-12

Poinsettias

Linda Schmidt – in memory of Don Schmidt from his family

Ron and Debra Ohnesorge and family for our faith, family and friends

Willard & Jeanette Kopplin – in memory of Walter and Alice Baumann and Gilbert and Ella Kopplin

Leo Stuckemeyer – in memory of Viola Stuckemeyer and with thanksgiving to God for family and friends

Leon & Jane Wendte – with thanksgiving to God for our Savior and our family

Dean Stuckemeyer family – with thanksgiving to God for faith, family, friends, and for all who are celebrating this blessed season

Shirley Wachtel – with thanksgiving to God for family and friends

Lynn & Gary Wachtel – with thanksgiving to God for our family, friends, and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Daryl Gilbert family – in memory of family and friends, and in thanksgiving for healthy grandchildren

Mike & Annie Guerrettaz and family – with thanksgiving to God for the best gift of all Jesus Christ our Savior!

Bernice LaBerta and family – in memory of Leonard LaBerta, Elmer & Julia Wendling

Doris Wendte – in memory of Walter, Karen, and Eric Wendte

Larry Wachtel – in memory of William and Olga Wachtel

Raymond and Elaine Stuckemeyer- in thanksgiving for family, friends, and the greatest gift Jesus!

St Paul Ladies Aid—In thanksgiving for our congregation

For Advent 3: December 13, 2020

We've just come through fall election campaigns. How often did you see a candidate being asked a question, but then responding with a different answer? That kind of thing seems to happen a lot among those who are seeking office.

In a Bible passage to be read in our church service on Sunday, a delegation from Jerusalem approached John the Baptizer, the forerunner of Jesus, with a simple question: "Who are you?" (John 1:19).

After making clear who he was not, John answered the "WHO are you" question not by telling WHO he was, but WHAT. He said he was the voice: "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said" (John 1:23)

John the Baptizer was not seeking an office. The Lord had already given him one. John was the forerunner of the Messiah, and he was carrying out his responsibilities. He would continue carrying them out later when he pointed to Jesus and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), and when he said about Jesus, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).

Someone has said that a person goes wrong to regard himself or herself as a WHO and God as a WHAT. Then it becomes easy to think of God as some sort of crutch or a device for us to use.

Try it the other way around. Like John the Baptizer, think of God as a WHO, and yourself more as a WHAT.

Now, of course, you are a WHO too. Yet the God Who did not spare His Son but gave Him up for us all is the greatest WHO there is! Trust Him.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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