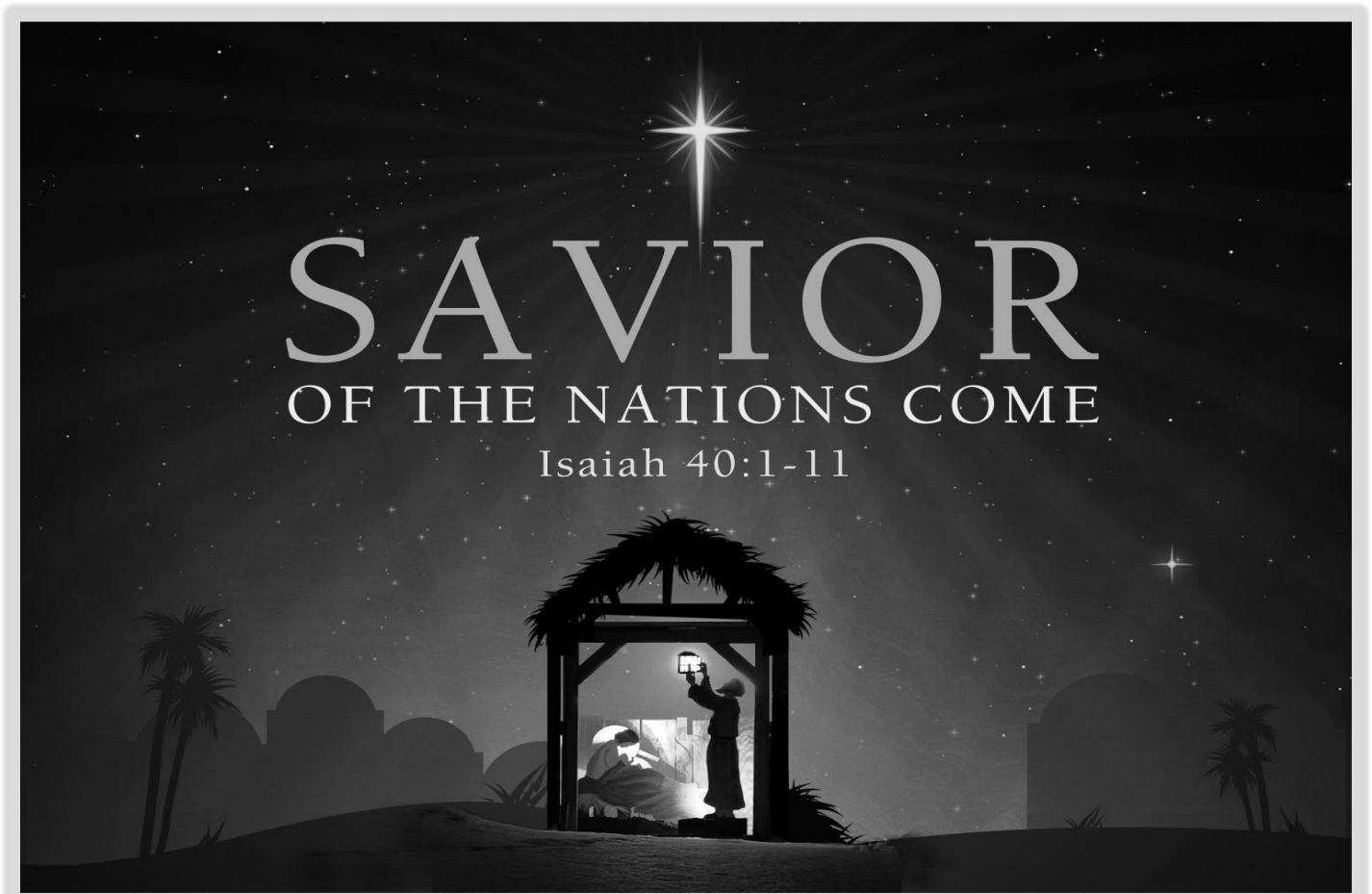


Midweek Advent 3:
Hark the Glad Sound
December 18, 2024



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS
*Welcoming all to walk together
toward abundant life in Christ.*

AS WE GATHER

Isaiah anticipates that the people in Babylonian exile will miss his Gospel message in Isaiah 40:1–5. He signals his disappointment through the sudden shift from the divine glory, witnessed by all flesh (Isaiah 40:5), to the pathos of human transience in Isaiah 40:6–8a where “grass” is used to describe people four times. The only sure source of joy and life is God’s Word which endures forever (Isaiah 40:8b).

The PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH & RINGING OF THE BELLS

HYMN

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

1. Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
“Christ is near,” we hear it say.
“Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!”
2. Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.
3. See, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav’n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv’n;
4. So, when next He comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.
5. Honor, glory, might, dominion
To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit
While eternal ages run!



Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

P In the Name of our God, Who was, and is, and is to come:

C **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P We come with great expectation to await the coming Messiah.

C **All creation waits with great longing for the Son of God.**

P As John the Baptist cried out in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord,”

C **We are here to prepare a place in our hearts for His coming.**

P In preparation, we confess together:

C **God of Advent, we confess that our excitement about this season often has very little to do with Jesus. We surround ourselves with the ornaments of the season, yet we feel alone and lifeless. We confess that we find more pleasure in receiving than giving. Forgive the sins of our thoughts, words, and actions. In this Advent season, empower us to know that forgiveness is possible only because of the Christ Child, Jesus our Lord.**

(Silence for personal confession and reflection)

P People of God, today we have good news to share with each other. Christ came into the world to save us from sin and to restore us to a right relationship with God and with each other. God came in human flesh to be one of us—to know our pain and to live among us. God comes to us in the baby Jesus, born to give life and hope to all of us—God’s children. You are forgiven and you are set free!

C **Amen! Come quickly, Lord Jesus, Amen!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:6–8

⁶ A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 1:15–24

¹⁵ Because I was sure of this, I wanted to come to you first, so that you might have a second experience of grace. ¹⁶ I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. ¹⁷ Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say “Yes, yes” and “No, no” at the same time? ¹⁸ As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. ¹⁹ For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. ²⁰ For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. ²¹ And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. ²³ But I call God to witness against me—it was to spare you that I refrained from coming again to Corinth. ²⁴ Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:32–42

³² “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁶ “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷ For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴² Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51

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SERMON

“Hark the Glad Sound” *Isaiah 40:6–8*

Rev. Jerry Menk

OFFERING

For those worshiping online, please visit www.lccross.org to find links to our Give+ secured online giving portal and our online Pew Card which is called a Connect Card. Or to fill out the card directly go to <https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6>



For those worshiping in-person, please indicate your attendance and any requests on the Pew Card.

OFFERING HYMN

Angels Singing In The Heavens

(Sung to Angels from the Realms of Glory - LSB 367)

1. Angels singing in the heavens,
Of the Savior promised long;
Ev'ry heart shall open to Him,
Ev'ry voice lift high in song.
He is coming! He is coming!
Ev'ry voice life high in song.
2. Mighty God in flesh appearing,
Prince of Peace, oh, enter in.
With the message of salvation:
We no more are slaves to sin.
Everlasting, changeless Savior,
We no more are slaves to sin.
3. Glory, laud, all honor, blessing
To the Prince whose reign will come.
Praise and thanks and adoration,
Father, Son, and Spirit, One.
He is coming! He is coming!
Prince of Peace, Thy will be done.

Text: Public domain



PRAYERS

P Heavenly Father, “grass withers and flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever” (*Isaiah 40:8*)

C **“Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.”** (*Psalms 119:105*)

P Lord, to whom shall we go, you have the words of eternal life.” (*John 6:68*)

C **“Your Word is firmly fixed in the heavens.”** (*Psalms 119:89*)

P “When your words came I ate them; they were the joy and delight of my heart.” (*Jeremiah 15:16*).

C **“How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth.”** (*Psalms 119:103*)

P “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.” (*Romans 10:17*)

C **“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”** (*Psalms 119:11*)

P “Lord, only say the Word and we will be healed.” (*Matthew 8:8*)

C **“I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.”** (*Psalms 119:16*)

All **“Grass withers and flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever!”** (*Isaiah 40:8*)

P In Jesus’ Name.

C **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

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

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

1. Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
3. Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.
4. Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.
8. Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001

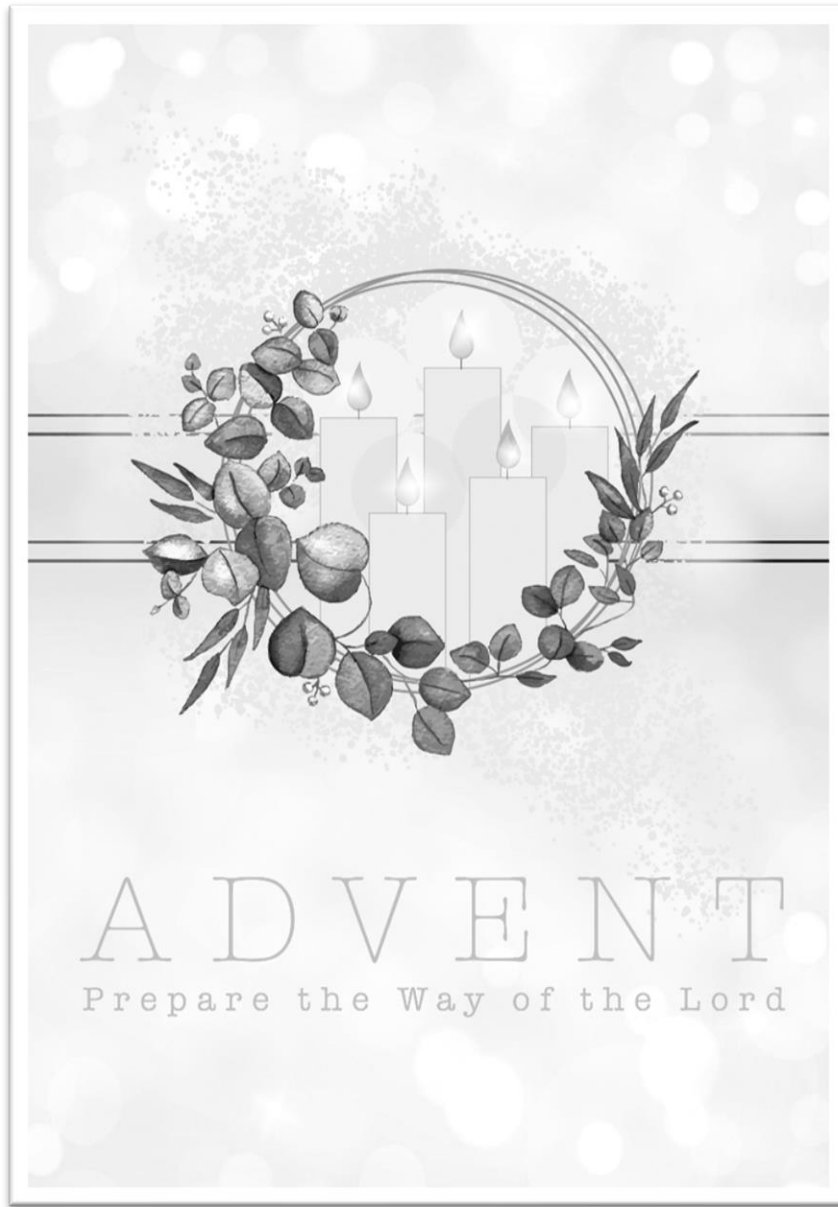
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SILENT PRAYER

Heavenly Father, forgive me for placing so much focus upon what's going on around me or on what's happening in me. Turn my eyes upward to see what's eternal, your Word and the Word made flesh in Jesus. Then, come what may, I will be at rest! In Jesus' Name. Amen.

POSTLUDE



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