

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*"A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone"*  
Advent 3 Midweek ~December 14, 2022

## **ADVENT MIDWEEK 3**

**December 14, 2022**

**Welcome** to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

**Holy Communion** is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

### **✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**THEME: The Bible, Our Book of Advents**

**“I AM Has Sent Me to You”**

**AS WE GATHER:** When God's people pray for deliverance in times of suffering, remembering God's sending Moses to Israel, foreshadowing the sending of Jesus for our redemption, brings us long suffering and the promise of final deliverance.

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

**HYMN “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates,”**

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring;  
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise  
Your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee;

His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe He brings;  
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise  
Your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is He  
Who comes to set His people free.  
To God the Spirit raise  
Your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in  
And new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise  
For word and deed and grace!

## INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**  
**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.  
**Amen.**
- 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## **SALUTATION**

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.

## **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.**

## **✠ THE WORD ✠**

### **PSALM 85 (ESV)**

- <sup>1</sup>LORD, You were favorable to Your land;  
**You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**  
<sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of Your people;  
**You covered all their sin.**

<sup>3</sup> You withdrew all Your wrath;  
**You turned from Your hot anger.**  
<sup>4</sup> Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
**and put away Your indignation toward us!**  
<sup>7</sup> Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,  
**and grant us Your salvation.**

### **Exodus 3:1–15 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup> And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." <sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>5</sup> Then He said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup> And He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. <sup>7</sup> Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup> and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup> And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup> Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." <sup>11</sup> But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" <sup>12</sup> He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain." <sup>13</sup> Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" <sup>14</sup> God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" <sup>15</sup> God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of

Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is My name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Deuteronomy 18:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to Him you shall listen.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **HYMN**

#### **“Hark the Glad Sound,”**

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev’ry voice a song.

He comes the pris’ners to release,  
In Satan’s bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace  
To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring  
With Thy belovèd name.

### **MESSAGE**

#### **“I AM Has Sent Me to You”**

**Ex. 3:1–15; Dt. 18:15**  
**Pastor Jim Sprengle**

## PRAYERS (following each petition)

**P** “Lord, in Your mercy,”  
**C** “hear our prayer.”

## THE LORD’S PRAYER (*Mt 6:9ff; Lk 11:2ff*)

**P** Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**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.**

## BENEDICAMUS

**P** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## BENEDICTION

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and  
the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.  
**C** **Amen.**

## HYMN “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come,”

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,  
Only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world!  
Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see;  
Anxiously we wait for Thee.

Enter now my waiting heart,  
Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne’er depart,  
Though I am but poor and lowly.

Ah, what riches will be mine  
When Thou art my guest divine!

My hosannas and my palms  
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;  
Evermore, as best I can,  
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,  
And in faith I will embrace,  
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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