



And the peace of God,  
which surpasses  
all understanding,  
will guard your hearts  
and your minds  
in Christ Jesus.

☪ Philippians 4:7, ESV ☪



☪ **Sunday, December 15, 2024** ☪

☪ **Third Sunday of Advent** ☪

☪ **Praise Service – 10:30 am** ☪

## **Welcome in Jesus' Name**

May God richly bless you as you worship Him. If you are a guest with us, we want you to feel welcome; you honor us with your presence, and we are glad to have you here. Please fill out the Attendance Registration located in your bulletin. Prayer requests can also be made on the same insert. If you have a specific prayer request that you would like the Pastor to pray for during the Prayers of the Church, please fill out the bulletin insert and give it to an usher, who will then deliver it to the Pastor.

## **Holy Communion**

We celebrate the Lord's Supper as part of our worship service, on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month during the 8:30am service and the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday during the 10:30am service.

We invite those who share our confession of faith, namely, that Jesus is truly present in, with & under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation to commune with us. Those who share a different confession or have not yet been instructed in the Lord's

Supper are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing. We offer individual cups. The light-colored cups in the center are grape juice instead of wine. Pastor will be available prior to the worship service to answer any questions about Holy Communion.

## **To Our Guests**

We often have guests in worship from all over the world. Please introduce yourself to Pastor or a Greeter before or after the worship service.

## **Restrooms**

Restrooms and changing tables are located out the back of the sanctuary and down the hallway.

Out of respect for your fellow worshippers & those who have diligently prepared for this worship service, we ask that you **silence your cell phones** & keep conversation to a minimum prior to the service.

***Large Print Bulletin: If you desire a sight-saving bulletin, please ask an usher.***

***Flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God  
by Lorry Huza.***

## Prelude by Phil

### Welcome and Announcements

*The third candle of Advent is referred to as the "Shepherd's Candle" and it is the single pink candle. The purpose of the different color is to emphasize the joy of this season. The birth of Jesus was meant to bring great joy into the world, symbolized by the angel's proclamation out in the field, and the excitement of the shepherds to rush into Bethlehem in search of Jesus. It also signifies the joy we as Christians should express as we anticipate the return of Jesus. "Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion! Shout for joy, O Israel."*

### Opening Hymn - O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB #379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.  
Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786  
Text and tune: Public domain

*Please Stand*

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

### Responsive Reading

*Psalm 85*

- P** You, Lord, showed favor to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- C** **You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.**
- P** You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.
- C** **Restore us again, God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.**
- P** Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
- C** **Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?**
- P** Show us your unfailing love, Lord, and grant us your salvation.
- C** **I will listen to what God the Lord says; he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants but let them not turn to folly.**
- P** Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.
- C** **Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- P** Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.
- C** **The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.**
- P** Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

## Confession

- P** Sin has defiled us, even those that feel they are without sin. For the Bible declares "if we say we have no sin, then we deceive ourselves." Therefore, we are all in need of confession. Confession is first admitting we have done something wrong. Next it is coming before God with a humble and repentant heart. Finally, it is receiving God's love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness. We now come before God to truly repent of our sins:
- C** **God we sinned. We cannot deny that we often act opposite of Your commands and words, and therefore deserve nothing but Your wrath and punishment. Yet, for the sake of Jesus Christ, and because of His innocent suffering and death, cleanse us of our sins. Renew and strengthen us so that we live according to Your grace, walk in Your love, and always seek You. Forgive us Lord, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**
- P** For those who truly repent of their sins, God does not keep a record. Through His grace He cleanses the slate and remembers them no more. Go forth knowing Your sins are forgiven, and that you have been redeemed in Jesus Christ, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Please be seated*

## Special Music

*We Three Spies - Musical Selection*

*Please stand*

## Responsive Reading

*Psalms 138*

- P** I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; before the “gods” I will sing your praise.
- C** **I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your unfailing love and your faithfulness,**
- P** for you have so exalted your solemn decree that it surpasses your fame. When I called, you answered me;
- C** **you greatly emboldened me. May all the kings of the earth praise you, Lord, when they hear what you have decreed.**

- P** May they sing of the ways of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord is great.
- C** **Though the Lord is exalted, he looks kindly on the lowly; though lofty, he sees them from afar.**
- P** Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life.
- C** **You stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes; with your right hand you save me.**
- P** The Lord will vindicate me; your love, Lord, endures forever do not abandon the works of your hands.

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

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

**Hymn of Praise - Seek Ye First**

*LSB #712*

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God, And His  
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and  
 3 Man does not live by bread a - lone, But by  
 righ - teous - ness. And all these things shall be  
 ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be  
 ev - 'ry word That pro - ceeds from the  
 add - ed un - to you! Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
 o - pened un - to you, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
 mouth of the Lord, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Karen Lafferty, 1948  
 Text and tune: © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: CVLI no. 504322541

*Please be seated*

**Old Testament**

*Zephaniah 3:14-20*

**A** A change is happening as the message transitions from gloom and doom to singing, rejoicing, and celebration. It is the third week of Advent and now we begin to focus on the joy of the coming of Christ. For He came to bless, forgive, redeem, and to call all His people home to Him. These words are clear, "At that time I will bring you in." The Old Testament for today is from Zephaniah chapter 3:

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

<sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

<sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

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

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

## Epistle

*Philippians 4:4-7*

**A** With joy in your heart make everything known to God. Rejoice people of God, for our Savior is at hand. The Epistle is from Philippians chapter 4:

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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

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

*Please stand*

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 7:18–28*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”



<sup>24</sup>When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

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

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### **Apostles’ Creed**

**P** Let us confess our faith with the words of the 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 † everlasting. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

# Sermon Hymn - God Loves Me Dearly

LSB #392



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -  
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and  
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -  
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did  
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.  
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.  
deem - er; He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.  
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.  
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

## *Refrain*



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819-1906; tr. composite  
Tune: German  
Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon**

*Praise God in all things*

**Offering**

**Special Music**

*We Three Spies - Musical Selection*

*Please stand*

### **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For the faithful proclamation of Christ's saving name, that God's people may be strengthened in the true faith and His kingdom extended, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God would guard and defend us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this congregation, its mission and its people; for the ability to meet the needs that arise as we do the work God has given us to do; and for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the educational institutions of our synod, especially Shepherd of the Coast's School and ECC, for our preschools, our day schools and high schools, our colleges and universities, and for our seminaries, that those who teach and those who learn in them would be transformed by the wisdom of Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who have wandered from the faith, that the Holy Spirit would use us to call them home to the Father, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they may use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love would preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all the faithful, that the Spirit would lead them to cheerful, generous giving from the bounty the Lord provides, to support the Church and to help those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who are sick, hospitalized, shut-in, lonely, oppressed, or in need, that God would grant healing to their bodies, strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, and to surround them with His loving embrace; let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who mourn, that in their time of sorrow they would not lose hope but rely on God's promise that He will never leave them or forsake them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

241

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**

## Responsive Reading

*Psalm 150*

**P** Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens!

**C** **Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness!**

**P** Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

**C** **Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!**

**P** Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

**C** **Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!**

## Benediction

*LSB 166*

**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 ✠ give you peace.

**C** **Amen.**

# 387 Joy to the World

LSB #387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## The Dismissal

- P** Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice.
- C** **Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**
- P** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Go in His peace.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude by Phil

### Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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## Upcoming Service Schedule

12/18 – Mid-week Advent Service 9:00 am and 7:00 pm  
12/24 – Christmas Eve – Candlelight Service – 4pm & 7pm  
12/25 – Christmas Day – 10:00 am

**LCMS Foundation**  
TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Your estate plan can enable you to express your Christian faith. Someday, when the Lord calls you home, your estate will turn over the financial assets to family, ministry or other charities. Have you ever considered preparing a letter to each of the beneficiaries of your estate, sharing with them why the Lord directed you to share with them? Maybe this could translate into face-to-face conversations right now. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can ask you questions, assisting you to become specific about how your faith translates into your gifting plan. For assistance, contact Tony Hunt 260-222-1291 or [tony.hunt@lfnd.org](mailto:tony.hunt@lfnd.org)

## ***Opportunities at Shepherd of the Coast***

✠8:30 am – A traditional worship service in the classic Lutheran liturgical style.

✠9:30 am – Sunday School / 9:30 am – Adult Bible Study

✠10:30 am – Praise Service – A contemporary worship service that is geared to families with young children.

Wednesdays during Advent – 9:00 am service with school children  
7:00 pm evening service

### **Church Staff**

**Pastor: Chad Czischke**

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**Cell: 313-378-5833**

**Email: [pastorc@shepherdofthecoast.org](mailto:pastorc@shepherdofthecoast.org)**

**School: Principal: David Harvin**

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