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Third Sunday in Advent

Matins

December 14, 2025

Solo Deo Gloria

Order of Service: 219

Opening Hymn *When All the World was Cursed* LSB 346

Opening Versicles p. 219

Ascription of Praise *Advent* p. 219

Invitatory *Behold, the Lord comes to save us* p. 220

Venite p. 220

Psalm Psalm 85 (ESV)

antiphon vs 9

P: Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

P: LORD, you were favorable | to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

C: You forgave the iniquity of your | people;*
you covered | all their sin.

P: You withdrew | all your wrath;*
you turned from your hot | anger.

C: Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,*
and put away your indignation | toward us!

P: Will you be angry with us for- | ever?*

Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?

C: Will you not revive | us again,*
that your people may re- | joice in you?

P: Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

C: 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.

P: Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

C: **Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;***
righteousness and peace kiss each | other.

P: Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,*
and righteousness looks down | from the sky.

C: **Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,***
and our land will yield its | increase.

P: Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.

All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P: Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

Office Hymn

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

LSB 345

Old Testament

Isaiah 40:1-11 (ESV)

“Comfort, comfort my people,” says your God. “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.”

A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

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. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Response*O Lord, have mercy upon us...*

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Epistle

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 (ESV)

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

Response*O Lord, have mercy upon us...*

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Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11 (ESV)

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

As they went away, 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? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, *Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.*”

“Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Common Responory*Forever, O Lord...*

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Sermon*Lighten the Darkness of Our Hearts*

Matthew 11:2-11

Canticle*Benedictus*

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Offering**Kyrie**

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Lord's Prayer
Collect and Prayers

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P: 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**

Benedicamus

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Benediction

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Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343

Solo Deo Gloria

| Advent / Christmas / Epiphany | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Special Services | | | |
| Advent Weekday services begin at 12:00 p.m. | | | |
| Evening services begin at 7:00 p.m. | | | |
| <i>Date</i> | <i>Day Name</i> | <i>Title</i> | <i>Text</i> |
| 12/17/25 | Advent Midweek 3 | Advent: Absolution | John 20:23 |
| 12/24/25 | Christmas Eve | Christmas: The Savior | Luke 2:1-14 |
| 12/25/25 | Christmas Day | Christmas: The Word | John 1:14-18 |
| 12/31/25 | New Year's Eve | The Name Above All Names | Luke 2:21 |
| 01/06/26 | Epiphany | Joint at St. Paul — Fulda | Pastor Williams preaching |