

**Worship Focus:** *When The Lord Comes Near, He humbles His People - Through God's Word and the messengers who proclaim it, the Lord humbles his people, purifying our hearts so that we might stand on the Last Day.*

**THE SERVICE FOR TODAY**

**Common Service with Communion p.15**

**Opening Hymn – 306**

*Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates*

**Lift up your heads, you mighty gates!**

**Behold, the King of glory waits.**

**The King of kings is drawing near;**

**The Savior of the world is here.**

**How blest the land, the city blest,**

**Where Christ the ruler is confessed!**

**O happy hearts and happy homes**

**To whom this King in triumph comes!**

**Fling wide the gates; prepare your heart**

**To be a temple set apart**

**From earthly use for heav'n's employ,**

**Adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

**Redeemer, come! We open wide**

**Our hearts to you; here, Lord, abide!**

**O enter with your grace divine**

**And cause your face on us to shine.**

**Eternal praise, unending fame**

**we offer to your saving name.**

**Your Holy Spirit guide us on**

**Until our glorious goal is won.**

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Music: *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789, ed. Thomas Williams

**Baptism** (10:30) – *see insert*

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

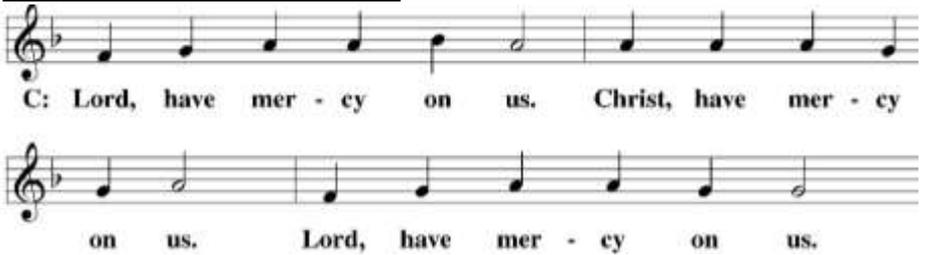


C: A - men.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

- P: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

### LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

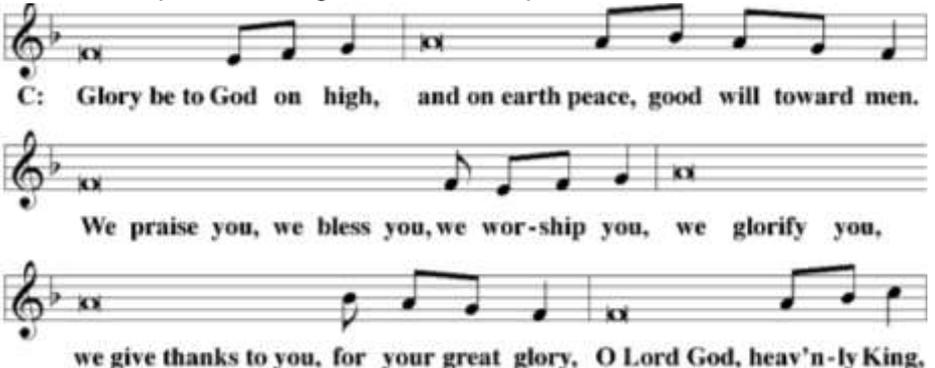
- P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

- P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.  
We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,  
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King.

God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the

sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the

sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of

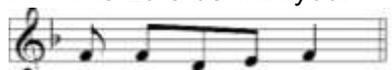
God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;

you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,

are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

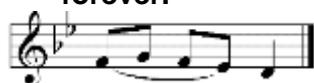
P: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray together the Prayer of the Day...

**All: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**



C: A - men.

## Lighting of The Advent Wreath - Advent 3

P: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

C: **We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**

P: We hear his call to see the light.

C: **We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

P: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

## THE WORD

### First Reading

### **Zephaniah 3:14-17**

<sup>14</sup> Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. <sup>15</sup> The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. <sup>16</sup> In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. <sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing."

### Psalm of the Day – 130

#### *Refrain*



#### *Psalm tone*



Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;\*

O Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive\*  
to my cry for mercy.

If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins,\*  
O Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness;\*  
therefore you are feared.

### **Refrain**

I wait for the LORD and in his Word I put my hope.\*  
My soul waits for the Lord more than  
watchmen wait for the morning.

O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,\*  
for with the LORD is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.

**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.**

### **Refrain**

### **Second Lesson**

### **Philippians 4:4-7**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, 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.

### **Verse of the Day**

*Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10)*



### **Gospel**

### **Luke 3:7-18**



<sup>7</sup> So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even

think of saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> The crowds began to ask him, "What should we do then?"

<sup>11</sup> He answered them, "Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same."

<sup>12</sup> Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, "Teacher, what should we do?"

<sup>13</sup> To them he said, "Collect no more than what you were authorized to."

<sup>14</sup> Soldiers were also asking him, "And what should we do?"

He told them, "Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup> Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

### Nicene Creed

**WE BELIEVE** in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

**WE BELIEVE** in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

**WE BELIEVE** in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the

Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

**WE BELIEVE** in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Hymn of the Day – 324**

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

O Lord, how shall I meet you, How welcome you aright?  
Your people long to greet you, My Hope, my heart's Delight.  
O Jesus, let your Word be A lamp to light my way,  
To show me how to please you, To guide me ev'ry day.

Love caused your incarnation; Love brought you down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling That led you to embrace  
In love, all love excelling, Our lost and fallen race!

Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, Who sit in deepest gloom,  
Who mourn o'er joys departed And tremble at your doom.  
Despair not; he is near you, He's standing at the door  
Who best can help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.

Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Let not your souls distress;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by his grace.  
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing A heritage in heav'n.

He comes to judge the nations, A terror to his foes,  
A light of consolations, And blessed hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth your beams most cheering, And guide us safely home.

**Sermon Text**

Philippians 4:4-7

***The Lord is Near – Repent or Rejoice?***

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -". The lyrics are printed below the notes.

way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
 from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
 tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

**New Member Welcome** (10:30)

**Prayer of the Church**

**Lord's Prayer**

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.

**THE SACRAMENT**

**Preface**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY Sanctus**

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -  
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - - - men.

**O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD Agnus Dei**



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - - - men.

**DISTRIBUTION**

***For our Visitors:** If you are visiting today we ask you to speak to the pastor before communing. Here at Woodlawn we follow the historic and scriptural practice of Close Communion (sometimes called Member Communion).*

**Distribution Hymn – 524**

*Rejoice, the Lord is King*

**Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**The Lord, our Savior, reigns, the God of truth and love;  
When he had purged our stains, he took his seat above:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**His kingdom cannot fail, he rules o'er earth and heav'n;  
The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus giv'n:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord and judge shall come  
And take his servants up to their eternal home:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!  
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.**

**THANKSGIVING**

**SONG OF SIMEON *Nunc Dimittis***

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



*Psalm 130: Refrain Tune:* Michael Joncas. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*Rejoice, the Lord is King:* Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, at. Tune: John Darwall, 1731-1789; setting *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1875, at.

*O Lord, How Shall I meet You?* Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76, abr.; tr. composite.

OneLicense.net #A711805  
CCLI #2600323



## **SERVING US TODAY**

**Preacher** – Pastor Benjamin B. Wessel

**Organist** – Nancy Perez