

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

☞ Third Sunday of Advent ☞

ORDER OF WORSHIP • DECEMBER 15, 2024 • 9:00 AM

✠ Indicates the congregation should stand as able.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

✠ OPENING HYMN

AWAKE, AWAKE
AND GREET THE NEW MORN

First stanza sung by the cantor:

*Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door
and lives now inside us forever.*

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and blindness.**

**In darkest night his coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.**

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Liturgy from Lutheran Service Book.

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AWAKE, AWAKE, AND GREET THE NEW MORN - Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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KINDLE A FLAME

Text and Music: John L. Bell
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TOTAL PRAISE

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Words and Music by Richard Smallwood
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ONE FOOT – LEAD WITH LOVE

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1515 South Semoran Blvd, Orlando, Florida 32807
English: 407.277.3945 Español: 407.306.0909
staff@poporlando.com www.poporlando.com

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light,
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer
and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share
and bring us at last into glory.

✠ INVOCATION

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, ✠
one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the
light of grace.
All: Amen.

✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Let us confess our sins to God, who loves us with an unending love,
who is patient and full of compassion, and who calls us to return
from our wandering and come home in this Advent season.

a time of silence for reflection

WL: God of compassion, we confess to you and to one another our sins in
thought, word and deed; what we have done, and what we have left
undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not
loved our neighbors as ourselves. Come, Lord Jesus.

All: Lead us home.

WL: God of unending love, we pray weekly that *YOUR* kingdom come, yet
we so often work, and watch, and wait for our own kingdom to come.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us. Come, Lord Jesus.

All: Lead us home.

WL: God of surpassing peace, we confess that we have not always
followed your way. We have responded to violence with more
violence, to hatred with more hatred. Lead us in paths of justice and
call to us to lives of service. Teach us to share with all in need, to turn
our swords into plowshares, to forgive others as you forgive us.
Come, Lord Jesus.

All: Lead us home.

✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN

OH, COME, OH, COME, EMMANUEL
LBW #34

✠ DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve
you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.
All: Amen.

✠ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: Let us pray. Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your
glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us
out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to
birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
All: Amen.

✠ BLESSING

WL: 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.
All: Amen.

✠ SENDING SONG

ONE FOOT – LEAD WITH LOVE
by Melanie DeMore

CHORUS (2X)

**You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love
Put one foot in front of the other and lead with love**

Don't give up hope (*ECHO*) You're not alone (*ECHO*)
Our God is here . . . He'll lead you home . . . **CHORUS 2X**

Lift up your eyes . . . Don't you despair . . .
Christ went before . . . The path is there . . . **CHORUS 2X**

✠ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
All: Thanks be to God.

✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH *Apostles' Creed*

WL: With the church throughout the ages, let us boldly confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

All: **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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: **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.**

WL: Sisters and brothers, enter God's house with joy!
Siblings in Christ, God is our home!
Come now and hear God's life-giving Word:
God's divine love is powerful. Our sin is washed away!
New life takes root to grow!

WL: 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.

All: **Amen.**

WL: Let us sing together as we light our first, second, and third Advent candles. God comes to us in love to enlighten us, to dwell in us, and to finish his new creation.

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Advent candles are lighted as we sing.

✠ WREATH LIGHTING KINDLE A FLAME

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.

FIRST LESSON ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

R: Our First Lesson on this Third Sunday of Advent is from the third chapter of Zephaniah.

Sing, Daughter Zion;
shout aloud, Israel!
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away your punishment,
he has turned back your enemy.
The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you;
never again will you fear any harm.
On that day
they will say to Jerusalem,
"Do not fear, Zion;
do not let your hands hang limp.
The Lord your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing."

“I will remove from you
all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals,
which is a burden and reproach for you.

At that time I will deal
with all who oppressed you.
I will rescue the lame;
I will gather the exiles.
I will give them praise and honor
in every land where they have suffered shame.
At that time I will gather you;
at that time I will bring you home.
I will give you honor and praise
among all the peoples of the earth
when I restore your fortunes
before your very eyes,”
says the Lord.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

R: Our Second Lesson is from the fourth chapter of Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PARISH CHOIR ANTHEM

TOTAL PRAISE

BY RICHARD SMALLWOOD

**Lord I will lift my eyes to the hills
Knowing my help is coming from you
Your peace you give me in time of the storm
You are the source of my strength
You are the strength of my life
I lift my hands in total praise to you. Amen.**

✠ HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 7:18-28

WL: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

All: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

John’s disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’”

At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

After John’s messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

“‘I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’”

I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

WL: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You O Christ!**

TODAY’S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN

HARK, THE GLAD SOUND!

LBW #35