

**AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**December 11, 2022**  
**Third Sunday in Advent**

**Welcome!**  
**¡Bienvenido!**

**PRELUDE**

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
*Traditional, arranged by David Nevue*  
*Pam Asberry, pianist*

Please prepare for worship by  
opening your heart,  
lowering your voice  
and silencing  
your cell phone.



**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Again, we hear the promise, the Lord is coming soon. In response to the one who comes to bring good news to the poor, and sight to the blind, we prepare for his coming by cleansing confession and the renewal of our hearts.

--*Silence for Reflection*

P: Patient Lord,

**C: forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and all that we see is what we don't have. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. We fail to recognize the Christ who comes to us daily. Clear our blindness so that we may see the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you. Help us to truly listen to one another, not with our pat answers ready, but with loving and generous hearts. Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

P: The desert shall rejoice and blossom.

Waters shall break forth in the wilderness.

The burning sand shall become a pool.

The God who can transform the dry lands can also transform the desert of our lives.

Abundant forgiveness is ours from the God who turns sorrow and sighing into joy and gladness.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**GATHERING SONG**

### ***Light Dawns on a Weary World***

1 Light dawns on a weary world  
when eyes begin to see  
all people's dignity.  
Light dawns on a weary world:  
the promised day of justice comes.

#### ***Refrain***

The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy,  
and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world  
when hungry hearts find bread  
and children's dreams are fed.  
Love grows in a weary world:  
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*

3 Hope blooms in a weary world  
when creatures, once forlorn,  
find wilderness reborn.  
Hope blooms in a weary world:  
the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain*

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

### **GREETING**

A: In the midst of the barren land,  
**C: flowers burst into bloom.**

A: In the midst of the dry desert,  
**C: streams of water gush forth.**

A: In the midst of sorrow and sighing,  
**C: joy and gladness dance together.**

A: We shall see the glory of God!

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY (Isaiah 35)**

A: God of Glory,

**C: we rejoice in the good news of your promises.**

**Come into our parched world and shower us with your gushing, abundant water of life.**

**Enter into our brokenness, and renew us with the strength of your love.**

**Be born anew in our hearts and in our world.**

**Come, Jesus; come. We are ready! Amen.**

### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

**Reader:**

**Light One Candle: verse 3**

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the King of glory.**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Isaías 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> El desierto y el lugar desolado se alegrarán, Y se regocijará el Arabá[a] y florecerá; Como el azafrán[b]

<sup>2</sup> Florecerá copiosamente Y se regocijará en gran manera y gritará de júbilo. La gloria del Líbano le será dada, La majestad del Carmelo y de Sarón. Ellos verán la gloria del Señor, La majestad de nuestro Dios.

<sup>3</sup> Fortalezcan las manos débiles Y afiancen las rodillas vacilantes.

<sup>4</sup> Digan a los de corazón tímido: «Esfuércense, no teman, Pues su Dios viene con venganza; La retribución[c] vendrá de Dios mismo, Mas Él los salvará».

<sup>5</sup> Entonces se abrirán los ojos de los ciegos, Y los oídos de los sordos se destaparán.

<sup>6</sup> El cojo entonces saltará como un ciervo, Y la lengua del mudo gritará de júbilo, Porque aguas brotarán en el desierto Y arroyos en el Arabá[d].

<sup>7</sup> La tierra abrasada[e] se convertirá en laguna, Y el secadal en manantiales de aguas. En la guarida de chacales, su lugar de descanso, La hierba se convertirá en cañas y juncos.

<sup>8</sup> Allí habrá una calzada, un camino, Y será llamado Camino de Santidad. El inmundo no viajará por él, Sino que será para el que ande en ese camino. Los necios no vagarán por él.

<sup>9</sup> Allí no habrá león, Ni subirá por él bestia feroz; Estos no se hallarán[f] allí. Sin embargo, por allí andarán los redimidos.

<sup>10</sup> Volverán los rescatados del Señor, Entrarán en Sión con gritos de júbilo, Con alegría eterna sobre sus cabezas. Gozo y alegría alcanzarán, Y huirán la tristeza y el gemido.

## **SECOND READING: James 5:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **Santiago 5:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> Por tanto, hermanos, sean pacientes hasta la venida del Señor. Miren cómo el labrador espera el fruto precioso de la tierra, siendo paciente en ello hasta que recibe la lluvia temprana y la tardía. <sup>8</sup> Sean también ustedes pacientes. Fortalezcan sus corazones, porque la venida del Señor está cerca. <sup>9</sup> Hermanos, no se quejen unos contra otros, para que no sean juzgados. Ya el Juez está a[a] las puertas. <sup>10</sup> Hermanos, tomen como ejemplo de paciencia y aflicción a los profetas que hablaron en el nombre del Señor.

## ***HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH***

**Hal-le, hal-le, hallelujah.**

**Hal-le, hal-le, hallelujah.**

**Hal-le, hal-le, hallelujah.**

**Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the eleventh chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him,

“Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them,

“Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:

“What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

## GOSPEL READING: Mateo 11:2-11

<sup>2</sup> Al oír Juan en la cárcel de las obras de Cristo<sup>[a]</sup>, mandó por medio de sus discípulos <sup>3</sup> a decir a Jesús: «¿Eres Tú el que ha de venir<sup>[b]</sup>, o esperaremos a otro?».

<sup>4</sup> Jesús les respondió:

«Vayan y cuenten a Juan lo que oyen y ven: <sup>5</sup> los CIEGOS RECIBEN LA VISTA y los cojos andan, los leprosos quedan limpios, los sordos oyen, los muertos son resucitados y a los POBRES SE LES ANUNCIA EL EVANGELIO. <sup>6</sup> Y bienaventurado es el que no se escandaliza de Mí».

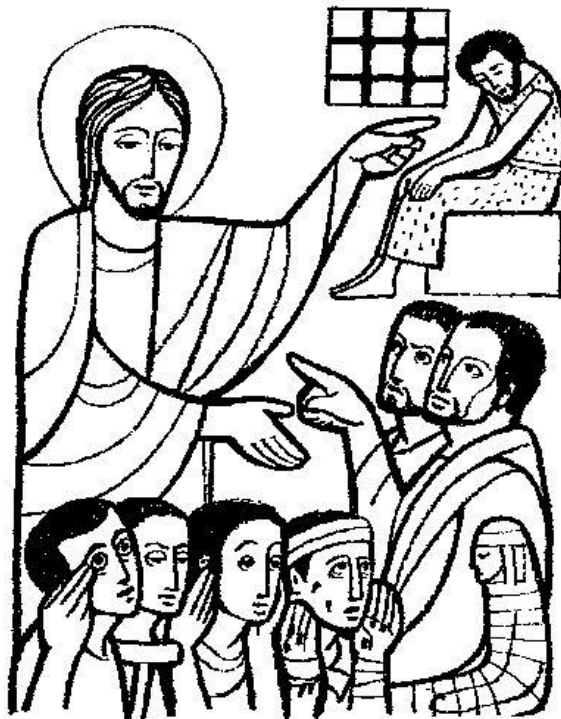
<sup>7</sup> Mientras ellos se iban, Jesús comenzó a hablar a las multitudes acerca de Juan:

«¿Qué salieron a ver en el desierto? ¿Una caña sacudida por el viento? <sup>8</sup> Pero, ¿qué salieron a ver? ¿Un hombre vestido con *ropas* finas? Miren, los que usan *ropas* finas están en los palacios<sup>[c]</sup> de los reyes. <sup>9</sup> Pero, ¿qué salieron a ver? ¿A un profeta? Sí, les digo, y uno que es más que un profeta. <sup>10</sup> Este es de quien está escrito:

“HE AQUÍ, YO ENVÍO MI MENSAJERO DELANTE DE TI,  
QUIEN PREPARARÁ TU CAMINO DELANTE DE TI”.

<sup>11</sup> En verdad les digo que entre los nacidos de mujer<sup>[d]</sup> no se ha levantado *nadie* mayor que Juan el Bautista; sin embargo, el más pequeño en el reino de los cielos es mayor que él.

## SERMON *Strange Package* Pastor Mike Millum



SPECIAL MUSIC

ADVENT SONG



By Christy Nocklels  
ROBIN CLAVIJO, solois  
NICENE CREED

**C: 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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

#### **CREO DE NICE**

**C: Creemos en un solo Dios, Padre, todopoderoso, creador del cielo y de la tierra, de todo lo que es, visible e invisible.**

**Creemos en un solo Señor, Jesucristo, Hijo único de Dios, engendrado eternamente del Padre, Dios de Dios,**

**luz de la luz,**

**Dios verdadero de Dios verdadero, engendrado, no hecho,**

**de un Ser con el Padre;**

**por él fueron hechas todas las cosas.**

**Por nosotros y para nuestra salvación bajó del cielo, se encarnó del Espíritu Santo y de la virgen María y se hizo verdaderamente humano.**

**Por nosotros fue crucificado bajo Poncio Pilato; padeció la muerte y fue sepultado.**

**Al tercer día resucitó conforme a las Escrituras; subió a los cielos y está sentado a la diestra del Padre.**

**Vendrá de nuevo con gloria para juzgar a vivos y muertos,**

y su reino no tendrá fin.  
Creemos en el Espíritu Santo,  
Señor, dador de vida,  
que procede del Padre y del Hijo,\*  
quien con el Padre y el Hijo es adorado y glorificado,  
quien ha hablado por medio de los profetas.  
Creemos en una santa iglesia católica y apostólica.  
Reconocemos un bautismo para el perdón de los pecados.  
Esperamos la resurrección de los muertos  
y la vida del mundo venidero. Amén.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Open our hearts Lord, C: To receive you.

#### THE PEACE

#### OFFERING

#### OFFERING PRAYER

A: Eternal God,  
C: you make the desert bloom  
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.  
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,  
and make us messengers of your mercy and love  
for all in need of your healing and justice.  
We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.  
(Isaiah 35:1-10)

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You are good news to the oppressed, healing for the brokenhearted, freedom to the captive, and comfort for those who mourn. Now the time has come at last to proclaim the year of your favor. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

#### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

P: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Jesus Christ is the true light that the prophets foretold. He has come into the world to enlighten everyone so that we might testify to your saving power and love.

P: Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming.

P: With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ was born, Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

P: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

P: By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world. Strengthen us by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ so that we may be obedient to your commandments and proclaim the mystery of our faith to all the nations.

P: Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

A: In the language of your heart, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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.**

A: En el idioma de tu corazón, rezamos la oración que Jesús nos enseñó:

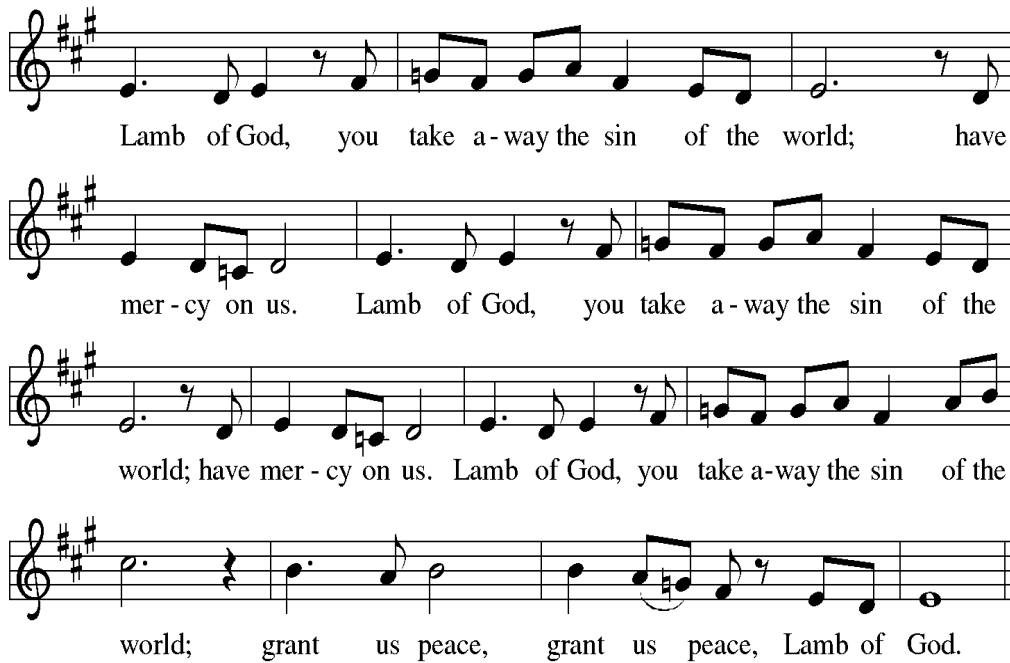
**C: Padre nuestro, que estas en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre; Venga a nos tu reino; hágase tu voluntad, así en la tierra como en el cielo; El pan nuestro de cada día, dánoslo hoy; y perdónanos nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores; y no nos dejes caer en la tentación; mas líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la gloria, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Our Lord Jesus, the surprising Messiah, calls to the blind, the lame, the lepers, and all outcasts. His call goes out to us as well, with all of our weakness and limitations, to come to the heavenly banquet and be fed by God's love and grace.



## THE LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## THE MEAL

### PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Lord God,

**C: no one has ever seen you  
but you have shown yourself to us  
in your beloved Son Jesus Christ.  
Help us to recognize his face  
in the poor and the humble.  
Do not allow us to overlook him  
in the brokenhearted and the weak.  
Let the Holy Spirit give us the courage  
to bring his good news of hope and joy  
to all who wait for him and need him,  
whether they know it or not. Amen.**

### BLESSING AND SENDING

A: Go now, with good news for the poor  
and prepare the way for the Lord.  
Wait patiently.  
Do not grumble against one another,  
but encourage one another.  
Be strong and do not fear.

A: And may God come quickly to save you;  
May Christ Jesus give you everlasting joy and gladness;  
and may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts  
and lead you on God's holy way.

**C: Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

### **PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY**

**1 Prepare the royal highway;  
the King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
a level road appear!  
Then greet the King of glory,  
foretold in sacred story:**

***Refrain***

**Hosanna to the Lord,  
for he fulfills God's word!**

**2 God's people, see him coming:  
your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain***

**3 Then fling the gates wide open  
to greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
its tribute too may bring.  
All lands will bow before him;  
their voices join your singing: *Refrain***

**4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
and justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain***

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship

A: Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God!**