



**ADVENT**  
**IMMINENT ARRIVAL**

*THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT*

*December 14, 2025*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**THANK YOU** for joining us in God's house today! We cordially ask that our Guests with us today sign one of the guestbooks located at either the front or back entryways, or fill out a "Let's Get Acquainted" card located in the hymnal pew rack and place it in the collection plate.

**THANK OFFERING:** Members of Trinity give their offering as an expression of love and thankfulness to the Lord and to help support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

**RESTROOMS** are located at the back of the upper level (the annex), and in the basement (down the back stairs of the sanctuary or annex). Handicap access is available, please ask an usher for assistance.

**YOUNG FAMILIES / TODDLER BAGS** – We are **GLAD YOU BROUGHT YOUR CHILDREN** to our worship service. Jesus said: *"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* We know that having little children in church can be a challenge, but **DO NOT WORRY** about it. Many of your fellow worshippers have been in your shoes and are just happy you brought your children with you. For your convenience, we have reserved the back rows of seating for parents with small children. These areas provide more flexibility for your family, as well as, easy access to move downstairs if necessary. A closed-circuit TV system allows families to continue participating in the service while downstairs. Pre-school **toddler bags** and **children's bulletins** are available for their enjoyment. Ask an usher for one to use during the service and please return the toddler bag afterwards.



## IMMINENT ARRIVAL

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### SERIES EXPLANATION

Do you remember the feeling when someone important is about to arrive at your place? It's a mixture of anticipation and excitement and nervousness. Did you make all the correct preparations? Will the person be happy to see you? When and how will the person arrive? Will there be any surprises?

During these weeks before Christmas, we anticipate the imminent arrival of Jesus. He's an important person! We are about to celebrate his birth. He could return on judgment day at any time. But in worship we realize that he impacts our lives when the Bible is read and when the sacraments are administered. Suddenly we feel the excitement of an imminent arrival.

Our worship in the season of Advent follows this path.

First Sunday in Advent

Alternate

Second Sunday in Advent

Third Sunday in Advent

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Alternate

*Imminent Arrival of the King*

*Imminent Arrival of the One Who Calls*

*Imminent Arrival of the Judge*

*Imminent Arrival of the Messiah*

*Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel*

*Imminent Arrival of My Lord and My God*

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## SERVICE OF THE WORD

# 305 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

CW 305



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be - hold, the King of  
 2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, his char - iot is hu -  
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the rul - er  
 4 Fling wide the gates; pre - pare your heart to be a tem - ple  
 5 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to you; here,



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; the  
 mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, his  
 is con-fessed! O peace-ful hearts and hap - py homes to  
 set a - part from earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, a -  
 Lord, a - bid! O en - ter with your sav - ing grace; show



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion  
 scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our  
 whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of  
 dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov-'reign  
 me your kind and friend - ly face. Your Ho - ly Spir - it



he will bring; there - fore re - jice and glad - ly sing. To  
 woe he brings; there - fore the earth is glad and sings. To  
 joy is he who comes to set his peo - ple free. To  
 en - ter in and new and no - bler life be - gin. To  
 guide us on un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise your joy - ful songs of praise.  
 Christ the Sav - ior raise your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
 God the Spir - it raise your hap - py shouts of praise.  
 God a - lone be praise for word and deed and grace!  
 ter - nal praise and fame we of - fer to your name.

*PLEASE STAND, IF YOU ARE ABLE*

## INVOCATION

**M:** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

**M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C:** **Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

**M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are  
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -  
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -  
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -  
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.  
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.

**Amen.**

## First Reading *Isaiah 35:1-10*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the desert will be glad.  
The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a crocus.

<sup>2</sup>It will bloom lavishly,  
and there will be great joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it.  
It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon.  
They will see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make the shaky knees steady.

<sup>4</sup>Tell those who have a fearful heart:  
Be strong.  
Do not be afraid.  
Look! Your God will come with vengeance.  
With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.

<sup>6</sup>The crippled will leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy.  
Waters will flow in the wilderness,  
and streams in the wasteland.

<sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool,  
and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water.  
There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts of jackals once lay.

<sup>8</sup>A highway will be there,  
a road that will be called the holy way.  
The impure will not walk there.  
It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way.  
Wicked fools will not wander onto it.

<sup>9</sup>No lion will be there,  
nor will any ferocious animal go up on it.  
They will not be found there,  
but only the redeemed will walk there.

<sup>10</sup>Then those ransomed by the LORD will return.  
They will enter Zion with a joyful shout,  
and everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Happiness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

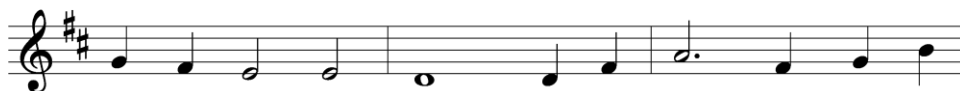
The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## 146C Praise the LORD, Sing Hallelujah

*Psalms 146C*



1 Praise the LORD! Sing hal - le - lu - jah! Come, our  
2 Hap - py are the ones pro - fess - ing Ja - cob's  
3 Food he dai - ly gives the hun - gry, sets the  
4 Praise the LORD! Sing hal - le - lu - jah! Come, our



great Re - deem - er praise. I will sing the glo - rious  
God to be their aid. They are blest whose hope of  
mourn - ing pris - 'ner free, rais - es those bowed down with  
great Re - deem - er praise. I will sing the glo - rious



prais - es of my God through all my days.  
bless - ing on the LORD their God is stayed.  
an - guish, makes the sight - less eyes to see.  
prais - es of my God through all my days.



Put no con - fi - dence in princ - es, nor on  
Heav'n and earth the LORD cre - at - ed, seas and  
God our Sav - ior loves the right - eous, and the  
O - ver all God reigns for - ev - er; through all



hu - man help de - pend. They shall die, to dust re -  
all that they con - tain. He de - liv - ers from op -  
stran - ger he be - friends, helps the or - phan and the  
a - ges he is King. Un - to him, your God, O



Text: Psalter, 1887, alt.  
 Tune: Lowell Mason  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Second Reading

*James 5:7–11*

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. <sup>8</sup>You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

<sup>9</sup>Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. <sup>11</sup>See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

The Word of the Lord.

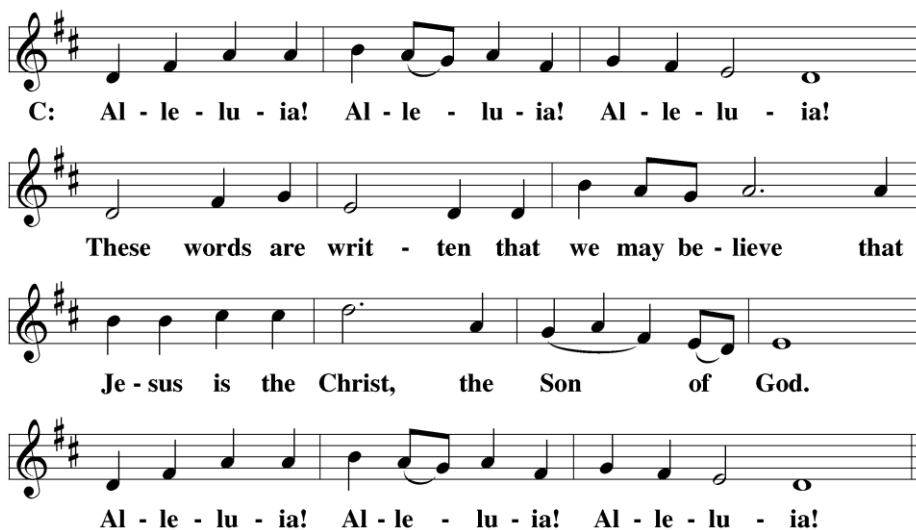
**Thanks be to God.**

*PLEASE STAND, IF YOU ARE ABLE*

## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Matthew 11:10*

Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.  
 Alleluia.



## Gospel

*Matthew 11:2–11*

<sup>2</sup>While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup>Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

# 324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CW 324



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
 3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,  
 4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;  
 5 He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.  
 your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.  
 a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace  
 De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door  
 He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,  
 who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!  
 who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.  
 his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.  
 send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr.; tr. composite

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

*PLEASE STAND, IF YOU ARE ABLE*

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

PLEASE BE SEATED

### 307 When the King Shall Come Again

CW 307



1 When the King shall come a - gain, all his pow'r re - veal - ing,  
2 In the des - ert trees take root, fresh from his cre - a - tion;  
3 Strength-en fee - ble hands and knees, faint - ing hearts be cheer - ful!  
4 There God's high-way shall be seen where no roar - ing li - on,



splen - dor shall an - nounce his reign, life and joy and heal - ing,  
plants and flow'rs and sweet - est fruit join the cel - e - bra - tion.  
God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fear - ful.  
noth - ing e - vil or un - clean walks the road to Zi - on.



earth no long - er in de - cay, hope no more frus - trat - ed.  
Riv - ers spring up from the earth, bar - ren lands a - dorn - ing.  
Deaf ears, hear the si - lent tongues sing a - way their weep - ing;  
Ran - somed peo - ple, home - ward bound, all your prais - es voic - ing,



This is God's re - demp - tion day long - ing - ly a - wait - ed.  
Val - leys, this is your new birth; moun - tains, greet the morn - ing!  
blind eyes, see the life - less ones walk - ing, run - ning, leap - ing.  
see your Lord with glo - ry crowned; share in his re - joic - ing!

Text: Christopher M. Idle, b. 1938

Tune: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547

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PLEASE STAND, IF YOU ARE ABLE

## CLOSING PRAYER

**M:** Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## BENEDICTION

**M:** Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



*PLEASE BE SEATED*

# 949 In Peace and Joy I Now Depart

CW 949



1 In peace and joy I now de - part as my Lord  
 2 Christ Je - sus brought this gift to me, my faith - ful  
 3 You sent the peo - ple of the earth their great sal -  
 4 Christ is the hope and sav - ing light of those in



wills it; se - rene and qui - et is my heart;  
 Sav - ior, whom you al - lowed my eyes to see  
 va - tion; your in - vi - ta - tion sum - mons forth  
 blind - ness; he guides and com - forts those in night



glad - ness fills it. This the Lord has prom - ised  
 by your fa - vor. Now I know he is my  
 ev - 'ry na - tion by your ho - ly, pre - cious  
 by his kind - ness. He is Is - rael's right - eous -



me, that death is but a slum - ber.  
 life, my friend when I am dy - ing.  
 Word, in ev - 'ry place re - sound - ing.  
 ness, their joy, re - ward, and glo - ry.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite

Tune: Ian Welch, b. 1983

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**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Officiant**.....Pastor Isaac Pappenfuss  
**Organist** .....Sarah Hanke  
**Deacons**.....Duane Mason and Jeff Neuburger  
**Ushers**..... Henry Schneider and Ron Zahn  
**Altar Guild** .....Sharon Boswell and Judy Lindemann  
**Videographer** .....Jake Vershum

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