

The Fourth Sunday of Advent & The Feast of St. Thomas, Apostle

December 21, 2025



INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Holy and gracious God,
C I confess that I have sinned against You. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace. Amen.
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 89:1, 5, 15–16; antiphon: Psalm 31:14

- P** I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, “You are my God.”
- C** I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness
to all generations.
- P** Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
Blessèd are the people who know the festal shout,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face,
who exult in your name all the day
and in your righteousness are exalted.
- C** 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.
- P** I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, “You are my God.”

KYRIE

tune: 348, The King Shall Come

**Look down in mercy on us, Lord,
Receive our prayers and praise,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word, For Your amazing grace.**

Text: Jaroslav Vajda © 1990 Concordia Publishing House.

PSALMODY

Psalms 136:1–4

- P** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- C** Give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- P** Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- C** to him who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures forever;

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you!
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your
might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly
lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.
- P** Almighty and ever-living God, You strengthened Your apostle
Thomas with firm and certain faith in the resurrection of Your
Son. Grant us such faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our
God, that we may never be found wanting in Your sight;
through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

HYMN 338 – *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Following each reading:

- P** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Old Testament

Isaiah 7:10–17

Epistle

Romans 1:1–7

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

HYMN 472 – *These Things Did Thomas Count as Real*

SERMON

“My Lord and My God!”

John 20:24–29

CREED HYMN

tune: 365, Away in a Manger

**In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.**

**In Jesus, the Savior, our hope is secured.
True God and true man once the cross He endured
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin.
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.**

**God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess
With power and truth the Church now He does bless.
As saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then
Be living in glory forever. Amen.**

Text: From “A New Hymnic Setting of Divine Service III” © 1991 Concordia Publishing House.

PRAYERS

Following each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

tune: 348, The King Shall Come

**Create in me a clean heart, Lord
Give me a spirit true.
Restore to me salvation's joy;
And keep me close to you.**

PREFACE

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 Him thanks and praise.

P It is our privilege and our duty, at all times and in every place, to give You thanks and praise, O Lord, God Almighty, eternal Father of the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, whom we know and in whom we rejoice as the fulfillment of all the promises given down through the ages and the herald of all that is come. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

SANCTUS HYMN

tune: 348, The King Shall Come

Sing holy, holy, holy Lord, Your glory we proclaim!
You are the Lord of hosts adored
Who comes in God's own name.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C** Amen.

AGNUS DEI HYMN

tune: 348, The King Shall Come

O Christ, you are the Lamb of God,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, now, O Lord,
And grant us peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN 357 – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*
HYMN 341 – *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*
HYMN 354 – *Arise, O Christian People*

THANKSGIVING

Psalm 136:1

P Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
C for his steadfast love endures forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P 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.
C Amen.

HYMN 517 sts. 1, 6, 3 – *By All Your Saints in Warfare*