GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH, **December 12, 2021**; Advent III

Lectionary / Selected: Psalm 85; Zephaniah 3; Philippians 4:1-9; Luke 7:18-35 Hymn: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Sermon Hymn: Anthem: (LBW 23)

The Antidote to Lawlessness

'A man was accused of murdering his girlfriend. They found blood at the scene of the crime and were giving it the DNA test. He was thrown in jail and after a few weeks his lawyer came to visit him with the results. "I have good news and bad news", the lawyer said. "Which do you want first?" "Gimme the bad news first", he answered. "Well, the blood they found at the scene exactly matches your blood". "Okay, okay, that's bad all right. But what is the good news?" "The good news is that your cholesterol is down to 150". That cholesterol reading is supposedly good news only if that man is not convicted of murder, and is not given the death penalty! At which point, what good is a healthy cholesterol level if you're going to soon die anyway? But in a more general sense, this applies to everyone. Even us. For I can assure you that everyone of us is going to die. Physically, our bodies are going to die. Unless Christ Jesus our Lord returns within the next decade or so. Which is entirely possible. For consider the world in which we live in right now.

The world of December 2021 is far different from December of 2019, shortly before the corona virus hysteria overtook the entire globe. Sure, there were grave problems then, but it seemed that despite a fake Russian dossier and a groundless attempt of