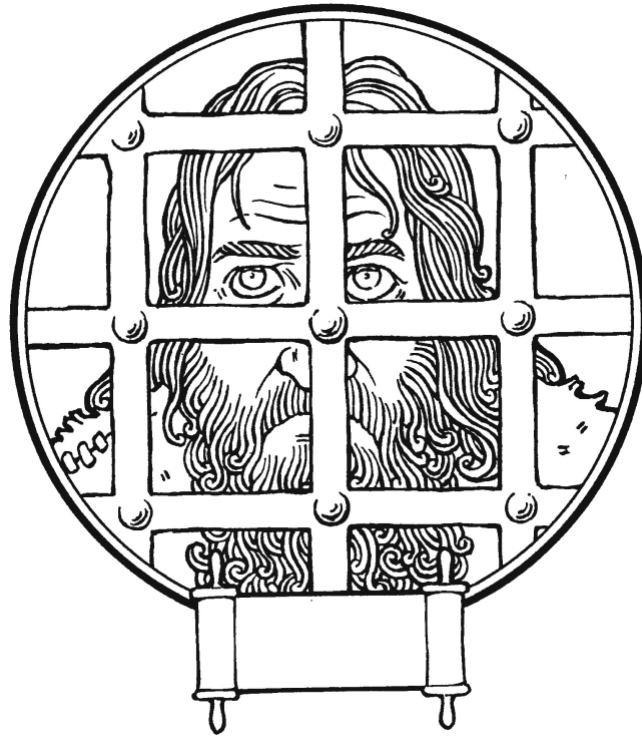


Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Third Sunday in Advent
(Gaudete)
December 13, 2020

12903 Clara St.
Carlyle (Ferrin), IL 62231
618-545-9543
bethlehemlutheranferrin.org

Pastor Jonathan Jennings
pastor@bethlehemlutheranferrin.org
Cell: 219-309-6941

Secretary: Jackie Yardley
bethlehemferrinchurch@gmail.com
Cell: 618-322-8087

Preschool Director: Dena Brammeier
School: 618-545-9542
Cell: 618-304-4564

The Order of Service

Divine Service Setting three (LSB 184)

*(Please stand if you are able for portions of the liturgy marked with an *)*

Opening Hymn: Arise, O Christian People **LSB 354**

Confession and Absolution* **LSB 184**

Introit*

(Ps. 85:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Phil. 4:4-5)

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.

The Lord is at hand.

LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.**

Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?

**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to
folly.**

**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.**

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.
The Lord is at hand.

Kyrie*

LSB 186

Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent

Collect*: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶ A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹ Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

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

Gradual: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. Stir up your might and come to save us! Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

Hymn: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

¹ This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce

judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

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

Alleluia*

LSB 190

Holy Gospel*: Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter. **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.” ¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed*

LSB 191

Hymn of the Day: Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

Sermon

Offertory*

LSB 192

Prayer of the Church*

Service of the Sacrament*

LSB 194

Lord's Prayer*

LSB 196

Distribution Hymns: 346, 350, 353, 342, 331

Nunc Dimittis*

LSB 199

Benediction

Closing Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

Announcements

What does this mean? The Third Sunday in Advent is also known as Gaudete, which, in Latin, means: “Rejoice”. This is the opening word of the Introit – Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. (Philippians 4:4).

The word "advent" is derived from the Latin words, advenire (to come to) and adventus (an arrival). That we might be prepared to celebrate the blessed Feast of the Nativity of Christ our Lord, the Church has set aside the Season of Advent as a time to reflect and meditate upon the coming of our Lord Jesus in the Flesh, through His Word and Sacraments, and on the Last Day. Advent is also a time of preparation for Christ's coming through repentance and faith.

Midweek Advent Services: Join us Wednesday nights throughout the Season of Advent for our series, “For Unto Us a Son is Given.” Our midweek sermons will focus on three important sons of promise – Isaac, Samuel, and John. The Order of Vespers begins at 7:00pm on December 16th.

Christmas Eve: The times for our two Christmas Eve programs have been set. Our first program will be at 6:00pm with the second program beginning at 7:15pm. Members are welcome to attend either one. If you are curious which program students will be attending, you may reach out to Deb Albers for further information.

In addition to the two programs, we will be offering a Lessons and Carols service at 8:30pm. While this service may be new to Bethlehem, the order of service is drawn from the Nine Lessons and Carols service that has been performed at King’s College in Cambridge, England since 1918. In addition to singing several of your favorite Christmas hymns, you will hear how God is faithful to His promise in sending the Messiah, the One foretold throughout the ages.

Cancellation: The Ladies Aid/LWML have decided that we are not going to have refreshments following our December 16th Advent Vespers service.

Wednesday Night Religion: Wednesday Night Religion Class continues this week. Please note the time change throughout Advent: 5:45pm-6:45pm.

The Season of Advent: On Sunday, November 29th the church began the Season of Advent. Please check your mailbox in the narthex for a list of services during this blessed season and an Advent devotional to be used at home.

Private Confession and Absolution: Our Lutheran Confessions state that private absolution should be retained and not abolished in the churches (Augsburg Confession, XI). With this in mind, if at any time throughout the penitential season of Advent you desire private confession and absolution, please give Pastor Jennings a call to set-up a time to meet privately.

Collecting for Matthew 25 Food Pantry: We are collecting canned and boxed food items as well as personal care items for the pantry. Please help us fill the tote in the usher's room to help those in need.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study: Join us at 8:30am for Sunday School and Adult Bible Study. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Coronavirus Concerns: We recognize the coronavirus is still an issue in our country and many members rightly have concerns. However, we do not want anyone to stay away from receiving the life-giving gifts of Christ in His church. Please contact Pastor Jennings to discuss a way that you may to receive these gifts.

Altar Guild, Ushers, Greeters, and Acolytes: We encourage you to consult your schedule, and if able, assist at your assigned service.

Find Bethlehem on Podbean: Listen to our sermons and other studies online. Download the app 'Podbean' to your smartphone. Search for Bethlehem Lutheran Church and begin listening.