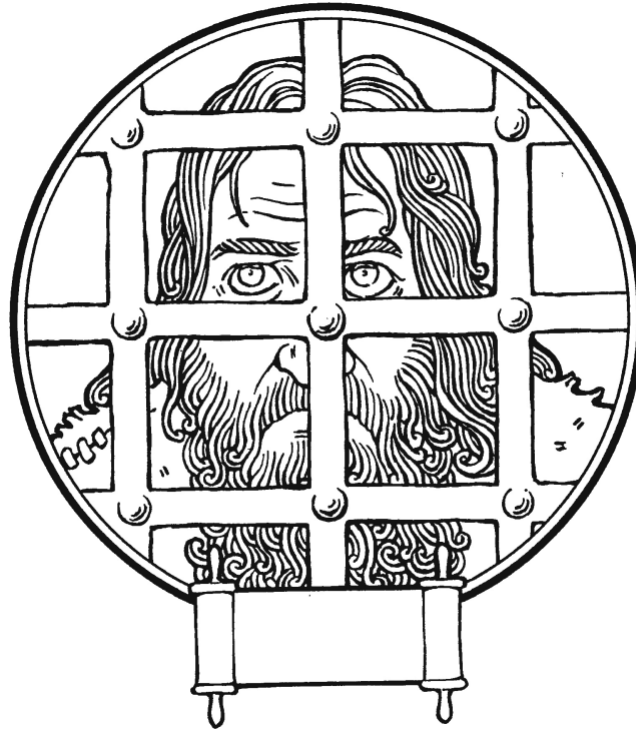


Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Third Sunday in Advent
(Gaudete)
December 12, 2021

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The Order of Worship
Divine Service Setting Three (LSB 184)

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

Announcements

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!

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

Offering

Prayer of the Church*

Service of the Sacrament*

LSB 194

Lord's Prayer*

LSB 196

Distribution Hymns: 347, 346, 353, 344, 849

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.

Where did the Gloria in Excelsis go? The Gloria in Excelsis is a hymn of praise that celebrates God coming among us in the person of Jesus. However, due to the penitential nature of Advent, this hymn of praise is omitted until we reach the joyous season of Christmas.

Midweek Advent Vespers: Join us December 15th at 7:00pm for our final midweek Advent Vespers. The theme for these services is "Immanuel: God with Us." Over 2000 years ago, God took on human flesh and blood in the person of Jesus to save us from our sin. He is truly Immanuel, which means, 'God with Us.' Yet, having ascended into heaven, God hasn't removed Himself from us. He continues to be with us today to give us His gifts of forgiveness and life. Throughout our midweek Advent services, we will look at the Gloria in Excelsis, the Sanctus, and the Agnus Dei to see how God continues to be with us today in the Divine Service. The Ladies Aid will serve refreshments following the December 15th service over at the school basement. Donations of cookies are welcomed.

Private Confession and Absolution: The 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 you desire private confession and absolution, please give Pastor Jennings a call to set-up a time to meet privately.

Wednesday Night Religion: Wednesday Night Religion Class resumes this week. Please note the time change through Advent: 5:45pm–6:45pm.

Thank You: Thank you for all the prayers and support for Eden Rose, Jerry and our family over the last couple months. It helps so much being surrounded by such loving, caring people. Your kindness and thoughtfulness will always be remembered. Jerry & Kathryn Mines; Michelle VanDorn & Daughters

Children's Christmas Eve Program: Practice for the Children's Christmas Eve Program will be **Saturday, December 18th from 9:00am–11:00am, and Wednesday, December 22nd from 5:30pm–7:30pm.** The final practice includes a meal for all the students as our gift to them from the teachers. Parts will be handed out on or before December 5th.

Assistant Sunday School Superintendent: If you or someone you know that would like to be the Assistant Sunday School Superintendent, please speak to either Dena Brammeier or Deb Albers. We need someone to take over this position in January.

Upcoming Events at Area Lutheran Churches:

- December 12th: A German Christmas Service at Olive Branch Lutheran Church at 3:00pm.

Find Bethlehem on Podbean or Facebook: Listen to Pastor Jennings sermons on Podbean or our Facebook page. Download the app 'Podbean' to your smartphone. Search for Bethlehem Lutheran church and begin listening.

This Week in Our Congregation:

Sunday: 8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School

9:30am Divine Service

Monday: 8:30am–11:00am Preschool

Wednesday: 8:30am Matins

8:30am–11:00am Preschool

5:45pm–6:45pm Religion/Confirmation Classes

7:00pm Midweek Advent Vespers

Friday: 8:30am–11:00am Preschool

Saturday: 9:00am–11:00am Christmas Eve Program Practice

Sunday: 8:30am Bible Class/Sunday School

9:30am Divine Service

Upcoming Services & Events:

- December 15th: Midweek Advent Vespers
- December 19th: Fourth Sunday in Advent