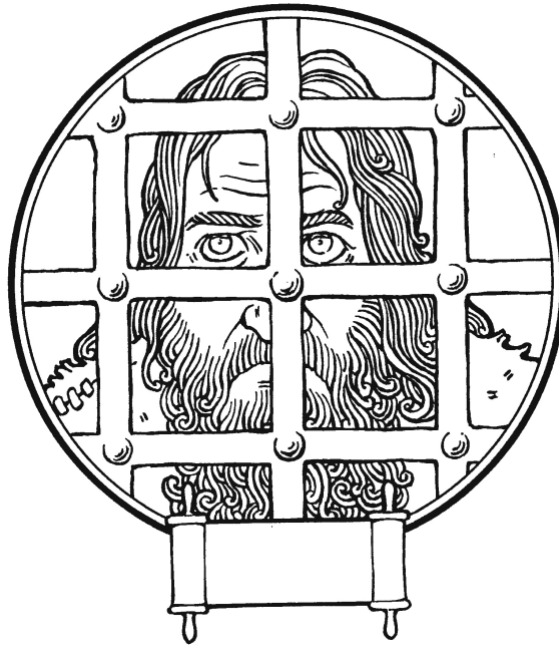


Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Gaudete

(Third Sunday in Advent)

December 11, 2022

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The Order of Service

Divine Service Setting One (LSB 151)

*(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 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" comes 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.

The Rose Colored Candle: On the Third Sunday in Advent, the rose colored candle on our Advent Wreath is lit. This color is only seen during two days of the church year - The Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete) and the Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare). As rose is a lightening of the purple, it serves as a reminder that even in the midst of the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent, Christian faith is appropriately joyful. We are ever mindful of Christ's victory over sin and death, which He has obtained for us through His crucifixion and glorious resurrection.

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.

Choir: The choir will be rehearsing after church today.

Advent Midweek Services: Whether it's a spouse or child, family or friend, coworker or classmate, we often set high expectations for those around us. Yet, disappointment comes when our expectations are not met. During our midweek Advent Vespers, we will take a look at four different sons of men who were disappointments to their fathers - Cain,

Ishmael, Esau, and Absalom. Yet, each week, we will also be pointed to a different Son who fulfills every hope and expectation in order to redeem us from our sins - Jesus Christ! So, join us on **December 14th, and 21st at 7:00pm** for our midweek Advent Vespers as we consider the theme: "This Is My Son!"

Christmas Program Practice: Christmas program practice will be **December 17th from 1:00pm-3:00pm, and December 22nd from 6:00pm-7:30pm.**

Annual Social Night: The annual Advent social night will be on **December 14, 2022.** It will be held in the school basement following the **7:00pm Advent Vespers.** Bring some cookies or snacks to share and enjoy a cup of coffee or hot cocoa while visiting with your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Congregational Potluck: Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer will be preaching here at Bethlehem on **December 18, 2022.** Following the service there will be a congregational potluck. Fried chicken will be provided. The Ladies Aid will be hosting the meal. Please bring a dish to share and enjoy the fellowship of one another as we visit with Pastor Meyer. Additionally, if you will be attending, there are slips on the table in the narthex that you can fill out to let us know how many will be coming. There is also a box on the table for you to drop your slip in.

Hey, need a Christmas gift? There are cookbooks available for \$20 each down in the office. Get in touch with one of the Ladies Aid/LWML members to get your cookbook today! It is filled with awesome recipes from some amazing cooks.

Sing and Sip: December 20, 2022 the ladies will be out caroling to the shut ins. Meet at **1:00pm** at school to carpool. After the caroling, the ladies are asked to bring finger foods and join over at Sharon Schneider's for some social time. If you would like to join in the fun, let Sharon (226-3353) know to expect you. All ladies are welcomed to join us.

Women's Dress Shoes and Boots Available: Women's dress shoes and boots (size 6 to 6 ½) are available. If you're interested, please contact Mike Jones.

Flower Chart: The 2023 flower chart is up in the office for those that would like to sign up to have flowers on the altar for the coming year.

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.