



**St. Luke's
Lutheran Church**



4801 Anderson Ave
Manhattan, KS 66503
785-539-2604
www.stlukesmanhattan.org

Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.

December 13, 2020 – 11:00 AM

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor
Charity Smith, Director of Christian Education
Rev. King Crawford, Campus Ministry
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music
Betsy Molinary, Director of Early Learning Center
Tracie Hudson, Assistant Director*

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
(Series B)**

WELCOME

We are glad you are here to worship our Savior with us. Please remember to turn your cell phone to silence. Restrooms are on the west side of the sanctuary. Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office through email, office@stlukesmanhattan.org, or by calling 785-539-2604. On Communion Sundays, if you need non-gluten wafers at communion, or need to have communion brought to you, please notify the elder who is serving. **In accordance with city ordinance #7488, masks are to be worn whenever you are in the church building.** (*Exceptions are made for individuals who have a medical condition, verified by a doctor, for which wearing a face covering is not advisable.*) We hope you will join us again so that you may experience Jesus.

AS WE GATHER

In our Advent preparations today, John the apostle and evangelist adds his testimony along with John the Baptist, holding before us the joy of Jesus as the light who gives to all who receive Him and believe in His name the right to become children of God. Because of our Lord's continual supply of grace by His Word and Sacraments, we are enabled with Him to "greatly rejoice in the LORD"; for by His Spirit of righteousness we lead lives of holiness of faith. This holiness continually rejoices in the Lord, prays, and give thanks in all circumstances. With John the apostle and John the Baptist, we rejoice, always prepared by faith to welcome and worship our Lord and Savior, who comes to us daily with healing and deliverance.

IMAGE ON THE COVER

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Zechariah 9:9

PRELUDE

(Please use this time to prayerfully prepare your hearts to enter into the presence of Jesus.)

✠A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE✠

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF CANDLES (*INCLUDING ADVENT WREATH*)

SPECIAL MUSIC – JUBELLATION

“Christmas Suite”

Stand

PRESERVICE SONG - “The First Noel”

1 The first Noel, the angel did say
 Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
 In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
 On a cold winter’s night that was so deep

2, 4 Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
6, 7 Born is the King of Israel

3 They looked up and saw a star
 Shining in the east, beyond them far
 And to the earth it gave great light
 And so it continued both day and night

5 Then let us all in one accord
 Sing praises to our heav’nly Lord
 That hath made heav’n and earth of naught
 And with His blood mankind hath bought

(Traditional English Carol arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089)

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.
- C** **Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves. Make us truly repentant, that we may receive the holiness of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.**
- P** The true light has come. To all who receive Him, He makes to be the children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Sit

SPECIAL MUSIC – JUBELLATION

“Away in the Manger”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

P Lord Jesus Christ, true Light of the world, abide with us that we may rejoice in Your gracious presence, pray to You in every need, and give thanks for all Your blessing; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OPENING SONG – “East to West”

- 1 Here I am Lord and I'm drowning
In Your sea of forgetfulness
The chains of yesterday surround me
I yearn for peace and rest
I don't want to end up where You found me
And it echoes in my mind
Keeps me awake tonight
- 2 I know You've cast my sin as far
As the east is from the west
And I stand before You now
As though I've never sinned
But today I feel like I'm just one mistake away
From You leaving me this way
- 3, 5 Jesus, can You show me just how far the east is from the west?
'Cause I can't bear to see the man I've been
Come rising up in me again
In the arms of Your mercy I find rest
You know just how far the east is from the west
From one scarred hand to the other

- 4 I start the day, the war begins endless reminding of my sin
And time and time again your truth is drowned out by the storm I'm in
Today I feel like I'm just one mistake away
From you leaving me this way
- 6 I know you've washed me white
Turned my darkness into light
I need your peace to get me through
To get me through this night
I can't live by what I feel
About the truth your word reveals
I'm not holding onto you
But you're holding onto me
You're holding onto me
- 7 Jesus, You know just how far the east is from the west
I don't have to see the man I've been
Come rising up in me again
In the arms of Your mercy I find rest
'Cause You know just how far the east is from the west
From one scarred hand to the other
Just how far, the east is from the west, just how far
From one scarred hand to the other
Just how far, the east is from the west, just how far
From one scarred hand to the other

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

(The year of the Lord's favor.)

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .

⁸For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 126; antiphon: v. 5

L ⁵Those who sow in tears,

C **shall reap with shouts of joy!**

L ¹When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,

C **we were like those who dream.**

L ²Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

C **and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

L then they said among the nations,

“The Lord has done great things for them.”

C ³**The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.**

L ⁴Restore our fortunes, O Lord,

C **like streams in the Negeb!**

L ⁵Those who sow in tears

C **shall reap with shouts of joy!**

L ⁶He who goes out weeping,

Bearing the seed for sowing,

C **shall come home with shouts of joy,**

Bringing his sheaves with him.

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.

L ⁵Those who sow in tears,
C shall reap with shouts of joy!

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

(Rejoice always.)

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit.

²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good.

²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your
whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P Alleluia. Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,

C who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-8, 19-28

(The testimony of John the Baptist.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Sit

LAMB'S MESSAGE

SERMON

VOTUM

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts
and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

OFFERING

There are several ways to give.

1. **Offering plates** are available in the narthex as you exit.
2. Please **send** your offerings to
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
4801 Anderson Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66503
3. Give through our **website**:
<https://stlukesmanhattan.org/about-us/financial-support/>
4. **Electronic Funds Transfer**
Sign up through the church office.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Christians express their thanks to God in many ways: in prayer, in giving to the Lord’s work, in acts of service to others, and in faithful living in their daily callings. Everything we do to honor God in our lives is a means of returning thanks for the Lord’s many gifts to us.

POST SERMON SONG - “Away in a Manger” Luke 2:7

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

(James R. Murray arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089)

✠BLESSING OF PASCHAL CANDLE AND STAND, TABLE STANDS, AND CRUCIFIX STAND✠

P Beloved in the Lord, Moses was commanded by the Lord to receive gifts from the people for the beautification of the sanctuary. Everyone whose heart stirred and whose spirit was moved brought a contribution to the Lord to be used in the Lord's house in all its services.

Since the Lord has taught us in His holy Word that everything is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer, it is fitting that we bless and sanctify the paschal candle and its stand, the table stands, and the crucifix stand for use in God's holy house.

The paschal (pass'-kul) candle is a symbol of our Lord's resurrection and His visible presence here on earth during the following 40 days.

The word "paschal" means the passing over. In the Old Testament it refers to the night the Israelites left Egypt for the Promised Land, when God struck the houses of the Egyptians but left the Israelites untouched, thus "passing over" or sparing them.

With Christianity the word "paschal" took on a new meaning, referring to Our Lord's passion, death, resurrection, and glorification. These events stand at the center of our faith. God's saving plan for us was accomplished by the redemptive suffering and death of Jesus. His resurrection and glorification are our assurance of eternal life.

On our paschal candle and on the stand is a cross, reminding us that our Lord suffered on the cross to win our salvation. On the stand, above and below the cross, is an "A" (alpha) and "W" (Omega), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. These symbolize that Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The candle is lit at the beginning of the Easter Vigil service and is placed near the Gospel horn of the altar (that is, the right-hand side of the altar as viewed by the congregation from the nave).

It remains there and is lighted for all liturgical services until Ascension Day. After Ascension Day, the candle is placed next to the baptismal font.

The candle is lit during all baptisms throughout the year, passing the light of Christ to each person baptized.

The candle may be used at funeral services, being placed next to the casket. At funeral services it is a reminder that the sacrament of Baptism is itself a death and resurrection in Christ, and testifies to Christian certainty in the resurrection of the dead and life with Christ in the world to come.

The table stands will be used to receive the used communion cups, and the crucifix stand will stabilize our crucifix.

Stand

P Let us pray.

O God, You have directed us to bring offerings for Your glory. We implore You to bless the Paschal Candle and its stand, the table stands, and the crucifix stand. Grant that they may reflect our love for You, benefit Your Church, and bring joy to us through their use; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless the paschal candle and its stand, the table stands, and the crucifix stand and those who use them.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the Holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God guard and defend us from all temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For [*name*], our Synod President, [*name*], our District President, for all pastors and servants of Christ, that they proclaim with faithfulness and clarity the true light of the Gospel in all they do, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of all people, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who are sick, [*especially . . .*], that God grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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