



**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.

Sunday, December 11, 2022 – 11:00 AM

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor
Rev. King Crawford, Campus Ministry
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music
Shelby Bruckerhoff, Director of Early Learning Center*

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(Series A)

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. We hope you will join us again so that you may experience Jesus.

AS WE GATHER

The prophet Isaiah encouraged his people by assuring them that God would bring about justice to His enemies. “Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you” (Isaiah 35:4). The heart of Isaiah’s promise is that through His justice, God will save us. God alone knows what is appropriate for each situation and what each person truly deserves. And ultimately, Christ’s coming will make all things right again.

IMAGE ON THE COVER

With Advent hope our praises Reecho joyfully
To greet our Lord’s arrival In His humility.

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

WE LIGHT THE THIRD CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PRELUDE

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

✠A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE✠

WELCOME

PRESERVICE SONG – JuBellation Handbell Choir

Stand

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.

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** This is the day that the Lord has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- P** Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
C Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!
- P** Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His;
we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.
C Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!
- P** Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
C For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His
faithfulness to all generations.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
C Merciful Father, our Lord and King, we have sinned against You in
thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought
to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done.
We have not always made Your kingdom of first importance in our
lives. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and
forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit,
lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may
grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

- P** God is gracious and forgiving. He shows His kingly power in ways that are merciful. To each of us, our Lord says, “Fear not!” and promises pardon, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I announce to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.
- C** Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
- Almighty and eternal God, Your kingdom is everlasting and Your promises are sure. Grant us grace to live with unfailing confidence, knowing that You will bring about that time when all of Your enemies are defeated and all of creation truly is at peace. This we ask for the sake of Jesus, our Savior and our King.
- C** Amen.

APOSTLES’ CREED

- P** We confess our faith together, using the words of the 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

OPENING SONG – “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

God rest ye merry gentlemen let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our savior was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
Oh tidings of comfort and joy

From God our heavenly Father this blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

(The desert shall rejoice and blossom.)

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;

²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 146; antiphon: v. 5

L ⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C **whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

L ¹Praise the LORD!

C **Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

L ²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

C **I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

L ³Put not your trust in princes,

C **in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.**

L ⁴When his breath departs he returns to the earth;

C **on that very day his plans perish.**

L ⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C **whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

L ⁶who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them,

C **who keeps faith forever;**

L ⁷who executes justice for the oppressed,
C **who gives food to the hungry.**
 The LORD sets the prisoners free.

L ⁸the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
C **The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**
 the LORD loves the righteous.

L ⁹The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
C **but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

L ¹⁰The LORD will reign forever,
C **your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

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 ⁵Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
C **whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

EPISTLE

James 5:7-11

(An encouragement for Christians to wait for the Lord with patience.)

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P Alleluia. This is He of whom it is written, “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,

C **who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-15

(Jesus speaks about John the Baptist.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

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

²When 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.’*

¹¹*Truly, 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. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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 will be passed** and are available in the narthex as you exit for your convenience.
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: Isaiah 35:4 – “Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’” The return of our Lord at the Last Day is a cause of joy and anticipation for us believers. We know our Lord and His love, and we look forward to His Second Advent. Indeed, how we live our lives here and now flows from our certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.

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)

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Father of all mercies, the visitation of Your Son has enlightened the darkness of our hearts and every corner of creation. Hear us as we pray in His name and according to His will.

O God, You have sent messengers to prepare the way of Your Son's coming. Grant us ears to hear and hearts to believe the words delivered by pastors and all who bear Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Lord, You have instituted the home to be a refuge for husbands and wives and a place of growth and safety for children. Look with favor upon the homes of our land, and grant that the faith might be delivered from one generation to the next. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Righteous Lord, You rule over all things in heaven and on earth. Until that day when Your Son comes in glory to usher in His kingdom, give wisdom and insight to all leaders, that we may live peaceable lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, the prophet Isaiah looked for the day when blind eyes would see, deaf ears would hear, lame legs would leap and mute tongues would sing. Until the final day of restoration, draw near to all who have requested our prayers, [*especially _____,*] and give them healing according to Your gracious will. Bind up those who grieve, that they may look for the resurrection of all flesh. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God, Your love invites us to rejoice in Your goodness. In every circumstance of life, teach us the joy that comes from knowing Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and eagerly expecting His gracious visitation; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.**

CONCLUDING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C 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.

CLOSING SONG – “Angels We Have Heard on High”

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo

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Holy Baptism from Lutheran Service Book

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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