



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 10, 2023 – 11:00 AM

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music*

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

AS WE GATHER

In ancient days, God spoke through the prophet Isaiah to comfort His people with the assurance of pardon and a joyful return to their home. After the time of exile, He Himself would restore them, renew them, and return them to the land He had promised them on oath to their forefathers. As He was with His ancient followers, so He is with us. Our God is for us, not against us! In the mercy of our advent King, Jesus Christ, who came once and who will surely come again, we rejoice in His goodness and gather to receive all that He seeks to give.

IMAGE

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. *Isaiah 40:5*

PRELUDE

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

✠ A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE ✠

WELCOME

Donna Williams – LERT

PRESERVICE - "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

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

Psalm 27:13-14; 130:5

P I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

C **Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

C **and in His word I hope.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P With hope in the Lord's promises of renewal by His Word and Spirit, let us together confess our sins to Him.

C **Out of the depths I cry to You, Lord!**

P Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to my pleas for mercy!

C **If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, I would have no hope.**

P But with You there is forgiveness, therefore we place our trust in You.

C **Restore us, Lord God, and set us free from our sins.**

P Renew us in Your hope, that we may wait for Your salvation.

C **Because of Your steadfast love for us in Christ, redeem us from all our iniquities. Amen.**

P As we wait for Jesus' final coming, we place our hope and our confidence in the promises of His Word and find our home in the presence of His Spirit. Confessing our sins and turning away from them through lives of repentance, we are assured again this day of the Lord's steadfast love and plentiful redemption for us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,

C **that by His coming we may rejoice in our eternal home;**

P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

APOSTLES' CREED

- P** God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
- 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 - "What Child is This" Luke 2:11

- 1 What Child is this, who, laid to rest
 On Mary's lap is sleeping
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 While shepherds watch are keeping
- 2 This, this is Christ the King
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud
 The Babe, the Son of Mary
- 3 So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh
 Come, peasant, king, to own Him
 The King of kings, salvation brings
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him
- 4 Nail, spear shall pierce Him through
 The cross be born for me and you
 Hail, hail the Son of God
 The Babe the Son of Mary
- 5 Raise, raise the song on high
 The Virgin sings a lullaby
 Joy, joy for Christ is born
 The Babe the Son of Mary

(William C. Dix, traditional melody, arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

(The Lord comes to comfort and pardon His people.)

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak 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.

³A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every 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.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A 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.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the LORD blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you 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!”
¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹He 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 9

L ⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
C **that glory may dwell in our land.**

L ¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;
C **you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

L ²You forgave the iniquity of your people;
C **you covered all their sin.**

L ³You withdrew all your wrath;
C **you turned from your hot anger.**

- L** ⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
C and put away your indignation toward us!
- L** ⁵Will you be angry with us forever?
C Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- L** ⁶Will you not revive us again,
C that your people may rejoice in you?
- L** ⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
C and grant us your salvation.
- L** ⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
C for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.
- L** ⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
C that glory may dwell in our land.
- L** ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
C righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- L** ¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
C and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- L** ¹²Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
C and our land will yield its increase.
- L** ¹³Righteousness will go before him
C and make his footsteps a way.
- 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** ⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
C that glory may dwell in our land.

EPISTLE

2 Peter 3:8-14

(The Lord is patient toward you.)

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Luke 3:4b, 6

P Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight;

C all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:1-8

(The messenger prepares the way of the Lord.)

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

G **Glory to You, O Lord**

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G **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. **A basket** is 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: 2 Peter 3:11 – “Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness?” All the things of the earth have an expiration date: “Good until the last day.” On that day, all these things will be dissolved. The things that seem so important now will simply cease to be. Peter issues this to us as a challenge: Since this is so, what kind of life should we be living? What should your priorities be? On things? Or on the things of God?

OFFERTORY - "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight
- 2 How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive Him still the dear Christ enters in
- 3 O holy Child of Bethlehem descend on us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel

(Phillips Brooks & Lewis H. Redner arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music used by permission CCLI #288089)

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** As we wait in love for the coming of our Lord, let us together, as His advent people, bring our prayers before Him.

Father in heaven, You prepare a heavenly home for all who trust in You and come into Your presence through faith in Your Son. By His coming into this world to save us from the devastation of our sins, dying and rising again to make us eternally Yours, we have been reconciled to You. We praise You, Father, for this amazing gift of love and ask that Your Holy Spirit keep Your steadfast love secure in our hearts throughout our days of waiting. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

- C** **To You alone our prayers we bring!**

- P** Knowing that You have come once into this world, Lord Jesus, we are confident that You will come again. On that glorious Day when we are all gathered before You, when every knee will bow to You and every tongue confess Your holy name, we will receive the restoration of all things in heaven and on earth that Your Word has promised. Until Your final coming, O Lord, keep us secure in our salvation. Remind us that our waiting is because of Your patience, and that You call us to use this time we have been given to share Your precious Gospel with the world You died and rose again to save. Stir up the hearts of all who hear Your Word this day, that many will come to saving faith and experience the comfort of Your presence in their lives. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

- C** **To You alone our prayers we bring!**

P As wanderers in this land, O Lord, we experience various types of brokenness and pain, suffering and grief. We lift before You in prayer those we love, who are also loved by You. For those longing for food and shelter, grant Your mercy. For those needing protection and peace, grant Your Spirit. We pray for those in our families and connected to our family of faith who have special concerns of body and spirit, [*especially . . .*]. Grant that all who wander find their home in You alone, O Lord. Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!

C **To You alone our prayers we bring!**

P Comforting Spirit, fill our land, our homes, our workplaces, our schools, and all our interactions with others with Your blessings. Allow this season of waiting and preparation to refocus our hearts and minds upon Your mission for our congregation and for us as individual members of this household of faith. Stir up our hearts to make known to all the wonders You have done, so that more souls may be brought to saving faith and many would join with us in saying, “Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!”

C **To You alone our prayers we bring!**

P Confident in our coming King and Savior, we entrust our prayers into the good and gracious hands of our sovereign God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who lives and reigns, both 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 COLLECT

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

GREET ONE ANOTHER

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “The Lord be with you,” “Peace be with you,” or “The peace of the Lord be with you”.

CLOSING - “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

Acknowledgments

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Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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