



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 17, 2023 – 11:00 AM

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

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

AS WE GATHER

“Advent” literally means “coming.” This sacred season is for the purpose of Jesus coming to us and coming for us. As we count down the days until Christmas, our hearts are getting ready to celebrate Jesus’ initial arrival, His first advent, when He entered into our world as the babe of Bethlehem. At the same time, we prepare our hearts for His second advent, His final coming, when He will return to earth to judge both the living and the dead and to give eternal life to all who trust in Him. Our Readings for today remind us of the special ministry of John the Baptist, who came as a witness to Christ, the light of the world. John himself was not the light, nor was he the centerpiece of God’s plan to save the world; no, John’s life was dedicated to preparing the way before the Lord and to get people ready for Jesus coming to save us. In many ways, we are invited to be like John: to trust in Jesus, our Savior and King, and then let the world know He is coming to the rescue of His people.

IMAGE

They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, even . . . whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”
John 1:25–27

PRELUDE

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

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

WE LIGHT THE THIRD CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

✠A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE✠

WELCOME

PRESERVICE SONG – “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

- 1 It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old
 From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold
 “Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from heav’n’s all gracious King!”
 The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled
 And still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world
 Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing
 And ever o’er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing
- 3 For lo, the days have come to pass by prophets seen of old
 When down into the circling years came Christ as was foretold
 His word of peace shall to the earth God’s ancient promise bring
 And all who take this gift will hear the song of angels sing
 (Text: Edmund H. Sears, Music: Richard S. Willis, public domain #288089)

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 40:1-3

- P** I waited patiently for the LORD;
C He inclined to me and heard my cry.
- P** He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,
C and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.
- P** He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
C Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** That we may rejoice in the great things our forgiving God does for us, let us together confess our sins before Him.
- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we do and by what we fail to do. Instead of looking to Jesus and following Him in faith, we have gone astray by disobeying Your Word. Instead of giving bold witness to You, we have kept silent and withheld Your grace from others. For the sake of our Savior and King, have mercy on us. Forgive us and restore us. Guide us and renew us. Help us to walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P** “Now 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. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.” Our faithful God hears our prayers and answers them, removing our sins from us and declaring us blameless in His sight through faith in Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore 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.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers.
C Embolden our witness to the true light that overcomes our darkness;
- P** for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

NICENE CREED

**☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both
the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

OPENING SONG – “Mary Did You Know”

- 1 Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you
- 2 Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Will calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby you kiss the face of God
Mary did you know?
- 3 The blind will see, the deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb
- 4 Mary, did you know that your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy
Will one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy was heaven’s perfect Lamb?
The sleeping child you’re holding is the Great I Am

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

(The Lord's righteousness will "sprout up before all the nations.")

- 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.

GRADUAL

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 116:26, alt.

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

C righteous and having salvation.

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C From the house of the Lord we bless You.

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

Psalm 147:2-3

- P** Alleluia. 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.

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: 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, 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.

OFFERTORY - "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 THE QUILTS

P Lord, we seek your Blessings on these Quilts as they are distributed to people less fortunate than we are. May each recipient realize that someone cares for them. We thank you for the ladies that have contributed to these projects with ingredients, the sewing, the tying, and the finishing. Now we ask that you protect and guide those who will deliver them to the people that need them most.

C Amen.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Almighty God, You sent John the Baptist to proclaim the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Grant that we who prepare to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ may die to sin and rise to new life, that we may treasure up and ponder in our hearts the Christ announced by Your forerunner. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P You sent John to proclaim the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. Richly and daily forgive our sins and the sins of all believers. Bless our Synod president; our district president; our circuit visitor; and all pastors in Christ. Gather and preserve Your Holy Christian Church by Your voice, and send us faithful preachers who will not deny but confess Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, be the source of strength and comfort in every home. Bless the children of our families, that every darkness would be lightened by Your Son's gracious visitation. Preserve them from dangers to body and soul, guide them by Your Word in wise paths, and keep them firm in the faith until life's end. 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 Creator of all, many in our midst have been afflicted with pain, sickness, trials and difficulties. Be merciful to those who are close to us, [*especially _____*,] that they may be granted health or strength to endure their afflictions. Help us all to see that when Christ returns in glory, our bodies will be incorruptible and immortal when He makes all things new. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever .

C **Amen.**

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an elder. For further study, see Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first. They then distribute the body and blood of Christ to those in the pews who are unable to come forward, and then finally to those who come forward.

Distribution and dismissal will be done by half tables.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“I Will Follow”

- 1 Father always near, I wait for you here
Resting in the love that vanquishes fear
Waiting, not a care, silence everywhere
Yet here in my heart a still small voice
Bids me to come and I will follow
- 2 Suffer me to come, risen wounded One
I've found shelter in Your fathering arms
Suffer me to hear Your voice in my ear
Becken me with words that draw me near
Bid me to come and I will follow
- 3 I will follow
Where you want me to
I will follow you
- 4 May Your kingdom come, may Your will be done
Father in heaven, lift my eyes to the sky
One day I will see heaven's Royalty
'Till the day the trumpet rings in my ear
Bid me to come and I will follow
Bid me to come and I will follow

(John Barbour & Anne Barbour ©1991, arr. © 1997 Maranatha! Music. All rights reserved.
International copyright secured. Used by permission CCLI #288089)

“White as Snow” Isaiah 1:18

- 1, 2, 3 White as snow, white as snow, though my sins were as scarlet
Lord, I know, Lord, I know, that I'm clean and forgiven
Through the power of Your blood, through the wonder of Your love
Through faith in You I know that I can be white as snow

(Leon Olguin ©1990 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089)

Stand

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; 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 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 SONG - “Born in Bethlehem”

1 Baby Jesus born in a stable, a humble Savior's birth
 You left Your throne in heaven above to live here on the earth
 Baby Jesus, lying in a manger, crying for the world
 The angels told the shepherds of the good news for us all

2, 4, Hallelujah! The King is here given for all men
5, 7, 8 For today the holy Son of God is born in Bethlehem

3 Come now sinners and you saints, all peasants and all kings
And bow before the Earth's Redeemer let all voices sing

6 Baby Jesus do You know You'll die for all our sins?
Don't be afraid for in three days
You will rise again, You will rise again

9 For today the holy Son of God is born in Bethlehem
(Third Day, used by permission CCLI #288089)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

