



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 8, 2024 – 11:00 AM

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor
William Prann, Director of Christian Education
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music*

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
(Series C)**

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

Mark Twain is sometimes attributed with the quote “Never put off till tomorrow what may be done the day after tomorrow just as well.” Though a humorous take on the problem of procrastination, there is a reality to the fact that we often are people who put things off until later, or even until it is too late. Thankfully, procrastinating is not an attribute of the one true God. As we focus on the Epistle from Philippians 1, we are reminded that the Lord always completes what He begins at His time. Even as we continue in our Advent season, we are assured that “when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law” (Galatians 4:4–5).

IMAGE ON THE COVER

And [John the Baptist] went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. *Luke 3:3*

PRELUDE

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

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

WE LIGHT TWO FIRST CANDLES OF THE ADVENT WREATH

✠A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE✠

PRESERVICE SONG – “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

- 2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th’incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

- 3 Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings, ris’n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

(Charles Wesley & Felix Mendelssohn arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #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.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Malachi prophesies about and John the Baptist fulfills the call of the one who would prepare the way for the Lord. John the Baptist would preach a Baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. We, too, seek the forgiveness our Lord has promised, and our Savior gives us assurance as we come before Him in humble repentance. Our help is in the name of the LORD,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and prepare again to receive Him who came in our flesh, comes through His Word and in His body and blood given and shed for us, and promises to come again, let us stand before Him in humble and contrite confession.

C **We are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and left undone, and we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.**

P We have not loved the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength,

C **and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

P We justly deserve present and eternal punishment, but for the sake of Jesus Christ, we pray:

C **Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May He who began a good work in you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

P Lord, have mercy,
C Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to receive with peace and joy the Savior made flesh,

C that at Your time of completion

P we may be found with faith and trust remaining in You,
C with knowledge and all discernment,

P so that we may approve what is excellent,
C and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

P filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ,
C to the glory and praise of God;

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

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 – “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 the angels sing
 (Text: Edmund H. Sears, Music: Richard S. Willis, public domain #288089)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Malachi 3:1-7b

(The messenger to prepare the way of the Lord.)

¹“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 66:1-12; antiphon: v. 12b

L we went through fire and through water;

C **yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.**

L ¹Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

C ²**sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!**

L ³Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!

C **So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.**

L ⁴All the earth worships you
and sings praises to you;

C **they sing praises to your name.”**

L ⁵Come and see what God has done:

C **he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.**

L ⁶He turned the sea into dry land;

C **they passed through the river on foot.**

L There did we rejoice in him,

⁷who rules by his might forever,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—

C **let not the rebellious exalt themselves.**

L ⁸Bless our God, O peoples;

C **let the sound of his praise be heard,**

L ⁹who has kept our soul among the living

C **and has not let our feet slip.**

L ¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;

C **you have tried us as silver is tried.**

L ¹¹You brought us into the net;

C **you laid a crushing burden on our backs;**

L ¹²you let men ride over our heads;

C **we went through fire and through water;**

yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

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 we went through fire and through water;

C **yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:2-11

(Paul's thanksgiving and prayer.)

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

- 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

Luke 3:1-20

(John the Baptist prepares the way.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

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

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.”

¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

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. Please **send** your offerings to
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
4801 Anderson Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66503
2. **Electronic Funds Transfer**
Sign up through the church office.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE: Luke 3:4 – “As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” God makes long-range plans: Isaiah lived more than seven hundred years before St. John the Baptist preached by the Jordan River. Obviously, God sees farther into the future than we do! That’s yet another reason to trust Him when it comes to how He tells us to live our lives: He knows what’s coming and we don’t.

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 O Lord, our God, You declared Israel to be Your people and brought them out of Egypt. You desired their salvation even when they would not listen to Your voice. Since You have called and gathered us also to be Your people, open our hearts to listen and gladly submit to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord, send forth pastors and missionaries to declare Your saving Word to the nations. Preserve them from temptation, protect them in suffering and equip them with every good gift to make known the Christ who still comes to save. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, as You call and gather us into Your family, so bless the households of this congregation. Bless husbands and wives, fathers and mothers as they go about their work of strengthening marriage and raising children. Let their love abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment, and fill their homes with the righteousness that comes through Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of hosts, St. John the Baptist counseled penitent soldiers to go about their military duties according to Your Word. Remember those who serve in the armed forces [*especially*_____]. Protect them from harm, give them wisdom and courage, and grant that they fulfill their duties honorably. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, Your forerunner prepared the way for the One who is mightier than all: Your Son, Jesus Christ. For His sake, we entrust to You those in need of healing, comfort and rescue [*especially* _____]. Have mercy upon them, deliver them according to Your will and strengthen them in faith, that they might be assured of Your faithfulness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy God, You sent Your Son to purify us, that we might be righteous and holy before You. Deliver us from the love of sin, which defiles us and stains our works. Cleanse our hearts by Your grace, so that we may delight in Your promises and our works would be pleasing to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God 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.**

CLOSING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope 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 upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you 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 – “Jesus, Light of the World”

- 1 The most beautiful night of the year
All the stars light up the sky
And the city is sparkling with silver and gold
From a million points of light
A reflection of something that’s deeper within
Just a flicker of something bold
- 2, 4, 5 Jesus, light of the world
Shine through the darkness, bright as the day
Jesus, light of the world
Shine in our hearts
Show us the way today
- 3 Who is this child in the manger?
Kings bow down and angels sing
The Lord of the universe is come here to save us
A precious offering
All the heavens above and the earth below
Are filled with the light of Your love
(Third Day, Used by permission CCLI #288089)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Divine Service, Setting Three 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 © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

