



**St. Luke's
Lutheran Church**



4801 Anderson Ave
Manhattan, KS 66503
www.stlukesmanhattan.org

Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.

Sunday, December 15, 2024 – 11:00 AM

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

THIRD 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

Are you feeling the joy? At this point in the month of December, studies show that many people are not feeling joy. Many people are feeling overwhelmed as they approach Christmas, feeling stressors that include not having enough money, missing loved ones, and anticipating family conflict. No matter how we come to our time of worship today, even if stressed, distracted, and frazzled, what great timing to hear what God speaks to us in this season and each day. From all our Readings today, we hear of joy! It is a joy not based on our own momentary perspectives of how things should go, but rather a joy from God's eternal perspective for our sake and what has freely been done for us. As our Advent season continues, may our true joy be found in the one for whom we prepare—Christ, who was born for us and who is with us and for us and is today in our midst as He comes to us in the means of grace.

IMAGE ON THE COVER

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel! *LSB 357*

SPECIAL MUSIC by Jubellation Handbell Choir

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 – SPECIAL MUSIC by 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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P We light the third Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh, and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P The third, pink Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* in Latin means “rejoice,” as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

C **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

P Guided by the light of joy, we respond with the psalmist: “Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

C 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.

P Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

C Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

P For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

C and His faithfulness to all generations.”

WE LIGHT THREE CANDLES OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WE LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE

st. 3

3 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And sing with cheer - ful
heart. With joy, we spread the mes - sage— A
bless - ing to im - part. Our joy is nev - er
end - ing; The Son to us is send - ing. We
wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Philippians 4:4-7

P As we gather today to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, we come before Him as people who are broken by an imperfect world, burdened by sin, and bearing guilt for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. In the midst of our condition, the Word of God speaks to us. In today's Epistle, we hear, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

C **We confess we do not rejoice in everything; instead, we let the weight of this world bring us down. Instead of seeing all good things from Your hand, at times we focus on that which does not give You glory nor bring lasting joy to our lives.**

P "Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand."

C **We confess we have at times been unreasonable in our relationships with others and in our relationship with You. Our witness to Your grace has faltered.**

P "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

C **We confess we have been anxious about our sin and our circumstances of life. Create in us a clean heart and renew in us a right spirit that we may abide in Your love and that Your joy may be in us, and our joy may be full.**

P 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. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

- P** Into the darkness,
C You bring light,

- P** and into our lives
C You bring lasting joy.

- P** Fill us with Your Spirit
C that we may rightly prepare and welcome the Savior promised and born for us,

- P** that in Him, Your joy may be known,
C and our joy may be complete;

- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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.**

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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

(The joy and restoration of God's people.)

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes," says the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, 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

Philippians 4:4-7

(Joy in and through Christ.)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Matthew 11:10b

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

C who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:18-28

(Messengers from John the Baptist.)

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "*Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.*" ²³*And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.*"

²⁴When John's messengers had gone, 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?"* ²⁵*What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts.* ²⁶*What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.* ²⁷*This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."* ²⁸*I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."*

- 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: Deuteronomy 4:6 – “Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’” There is no wiser, more fulfilling life than a life lived according to the Word of God. We should be encouraged by this when the world tempts us to think that the Word of God is harmful to us. Our Father loves us, so all His Word is meant to bless us. We may have to suffer for upholding the Word of God, as St. John the Baptist did. But the cross the Lord has for us to bear will be far better than any we would create for ourselves.

OFFERTORY – “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)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the church, for the people of God, and for all people according to their needs.

We praise You, O Lord, for the joys You have given us in this life. For each day You grant us in this life, we rejoice in You always,

C again I will say, Rejoice.

P For the opportunities You give us to share Your Word to children, family, friends, neighbors, and communities, and for the privilege we carry to model Your love and to give a reason for the hope that we have, we rejoice in You always,

C again I will say, Rejoice.

P For those who face their days with struggle and sorrows, especially those who ask for our prayers, [*including . . .*], that even though in this world we have trouble, we take heart that Christ has overcome the world. We rejoice in You always,

C again I will say, Rejoice.

P For those who serve our nation here and across the world in the armed forces, for those who keep our community safe through law and order, for those You use to make people well in times of physical and mental distress, and for all vocations in which the gifts and abilities You have given are used on behalf of others, we rejoice in You always,

C again I will say, Rejoice.

P For the uniqueness of the season of this wintertime, for the blessing of this Advent season of the Church Year as we prepare to welcome again the Savior sent and born for us, and for Your presence and blessings freely given to Your people each and every season, we rejoice in You always,

C again I will say, Rejoice.

- P** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

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

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and each 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

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 PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Sit

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.

LAMB OF GOD

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 Surrender All” Matthew 16:25

- 1 All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give
 I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live
- 2, 4, 5 I surrender all, I surrender all
 All to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all
- 3 All to Jesus I surrender, Lord I give myself to Thee
 Fill me with Thy love and power, let Thy blessing fall on me
(Judson W. VanDeVenter & Winfield S. Weeden, arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089)

“To the Lamb”

- 1, 2 To the Lamb upon the throne be the praise forevermore
 Be the power and the glory, be the strength and majesty
- 3, 5, 6 We worship Thee, O Lamb of God, the Living Word
 We lift up Your name and worship Thee
 Ancient of Days, we give You praise, O Lamb upon the throne
- 4 Son of God, Son of Man, You became the Spotless Lamb
 Suff’ring for me, You showed me mercy, now You reign in majesty
(©1993, arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music and Christ for the Nations Music, admin. by Maranatha!
Music used by permission CCLI #839610)

Stand

POST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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 - “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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