

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

GAUDETE – “REJOICE”

Sunday, December 12, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Altamont, IL

1861-2021 – zum Krippelein Christi – 160 years

Rev. Marcus Manley

Elder: Dennis Guffey

Organist & Choir Dir.: Dean Manuel

Crucifer: Dayton Tabbert; Acolyte: Garrett Flood Book Bearer: Easton Caraway

Ushers: Justin Durbin, Mark Durbin, Steve Flood

Preservice Music

Ringling of Bells

Prelude “Puer Nobis” Setting by Jacob B. Weber

Please stand and face the processional cross at the entrance of the nave.

Processional Hymn LSB #344 On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

✠ **DIVINE SERVICE, Setting Three** ✠

LSB p. 184-202



✠ **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** ✠

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✠ **SERVICE OF THE WORD** ✠

LSB p.186-193

Introit for the Third Sunday in Advent

Psalm 85:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4–5 (respond with the words in bold)

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*

again I will | say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.*

The Lord | is at hand.

LORD, you were favorable | to your land;*

you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your | people;*

you covered | all their sin.

Will you not revive | us again;*

that your people may re- | joice in you?

Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak;*

**for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not
turn back to | folly.**

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*

again I will | say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.*

The Lord | is at hand.

♪ **The Gloria Patri**

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♪ **Kyrie**

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(Gloria In Excelsis is omitted during Advent)

♪ **Salutation**

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Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C:** ♪ **Amen**

Please be seated

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-8

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.

¹He 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Ministry of Music – “Lift Up Your Head, You Everlasting Doors”
– *Kinderchor with soloist, Kysson Koester*

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 4:1–5

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

C: ♪ *Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-10

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

C: ♪ *Glory be to Thee, 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.”

¹¹Truly, 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.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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Please be seated

Hymn of the Day LSB #332 *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Sermon

Text: Matthew 11:2-10

Title: “*Parting with Sin is Such Sweet Sarcasm*”

Theme: **BE JOYFUL FOR CHRIST’S RETURN, EVEN IF YOU DON’T HAVE _____ IN THE RESURRECTION.**

Please stand

♪ **Offertory**

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Please be seated

Offering

Please stand as the offering plates are brought forward during the offering hymn

Offering Hymn #781 *We Give Thee But Thine Own* v. 1 & 2

Please stand

Prayer of the Church

Response after each petition of the prayer:

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

LSB p.194-202

♪ **Preface - ♪ Sanctus - ♪ Lord’s Prayer - ♪ The Words of Our Lord –**

♪ **Pax Domini - ♪ Agnus Dei**

p. 194-198

Please be seated

Distribution

LSB #349 *Hark the Glad Sound*

LSB #347 *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

LSB #846 *Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old*

Please stand

♪ **Nunc Dimittis - ♪ Thanksgiving - ♪ Benedicamus - ♪ Benediction** *p. 199 - 202*

Announcements

Recessional Hymn LSB #345 *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding*

Face the cross as it leads us to live in Christian faith (Mt. 16:24; 1 Cor. 2:2).

Postlude