

*The Third Sunday in Advent*  
*Gaudete - "Rejoice"*

Bethlehem Ev. Lutheran Church, Altamont, IL  
Sunday, December 13, 2020, 9:30 a.m.  
Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Rev. Marcus Manley

Organist & Choir Director: Dean Manuel

Elder: Tim Laatsch

Acolyte: Dayton Tabbert; Book Bearer: Garrett Flood

Ushers: Steve Flood, Jeremy Ruffner, Jerod Ruffner

**Ringing of the Bells**

**Prelude - Prelude on "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" - Tune: Stuttgart**

✠ **MATINS** ✠ p. 219-228

*(Please stand)*

♪ **Versicles** *(Advent)*

p.219

**PSALMODY** ♪

♪ **Antiphon** *(Advent)*

P: Behold, the Lord comes to save us.

C: **O come, let us wor-ship Him.**

♪ **Venite – "O Come Let Us Sing"**

p. 220-221

♪ **Antiphon** *(Advent)*

P: Behold, the Lord comes to save us.

C: **O come, let us wor-ship Him.**

**The Third Sunday in Advent**

*Ps. 85:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Phil. 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.**

(Please be seated)

**Office Hymn #344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry**

**Readings**

**Readings from Holy Scripture**

P: A reading from Isaiah, the fortieth chapter.

*Isaiah 40:1-8*

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak 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.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries:

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

<sup>4</sup>Every 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.

<sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A 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.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades  
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the word of our God will stand forever.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Ministry of Music – choir - "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

P: A reading from 1 Corinthians, the fourth chapter. *1 Corinthians 4:1-5*

<sup>1</sup>This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup>Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. <sup>3</sup>But 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. <sup>4</sup>I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who

judges me. <sup>5</sup>Therefore 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: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: A reading from St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter. *Matthew 11:2-10*

<sup>2</sup>Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the 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. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>7</sup>As 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?"

<sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you."

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### ♪ Responsory (*Advent*)

P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,  
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C: **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P: In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C: **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

### Sermon

Text: Matthew 11:2-10

Title: "*Joyful Jesus*"

Outline: **DOES JESUS MAKE YOU JOYFUL?**

I. Yes. Jesus makes you truly joyful in the midst of true suffering [vv. 2-6].

II. Yes. Jesus makes us joyful seeing as how He never shook in Word or deed [vv. 7-10].

*(Please stand)*

## **Canticle**

### **Benedictus – “Song of Zechariah”**

*p. 238-240*

*stanzas: 1,2,3,4    Congregation and Choir*

*stanzas: 5,6        soloist - Ronnie Putnum*

*stanza: 8            Congregation and Choir*

**Offering** – *Offering plates will be located at the entrance of the sanctuary, you may place your gifts in the offering plates as you exit the building.*

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

## **Prayer**

♪ **Kyrie**

*p. 227*

**The Lord’s Prayer**

*p. 227*

♪ **Collects**

*p. 227*

## **Collect for Third Sunday in Advent**

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.**

## **Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving**

*Response after each petition of the prayer:*

P: Through Jesus Christ our Lord,

C: **Amen.**

## **Collect for Grace**

P: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: ♪ **Amen.**

## ♪ **Benedicamus - ♪ Benediction**

*p. 228*

## **Hymn to Depart #345 *Hark! A thrilling Voice Is Sounding***

## ♪ **Closing Prayer**

## **Announcements**