

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

Palmer, Kansas 66962

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& Ms. Robyn Meyer

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday in Advent

Welcome to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. If you are a guest or visitor with us today, we welcome you and invite you to come and worship with us again. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Pastor Hayes, and we hope to see you again soon.

Remember that the Worship Service begins when you enter. As the Music for Meditation begins, you are invited to join in quiet, preparation time for worship. Before the service, speak to the Lord; during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

Liturgy – Divine Service Setting Three (Page 184)

Opening Hymn: 334 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

Hymn of the Day: 345 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

Distribution Hymn: 347 "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

Distribution Hymn: 340 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Distribution Hymn: 346 "When All the World Was Cursed"

Closing Hymn: 348 "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please e-mail prayer requests to Pastor Hayes at pastor.hayes@outlook.com.

Prayer requests will remain for 2 weeks unless you specify a length of time.

Angie Reinert, LaVon Hornbostel, Lula Stuenkel, Marilyn Ohlde,

Loraine Oldehoeft, & Lorna Heitman (in the nursing home)

Ladonna Hornkohl (cancer treatment)

Acolyte this Sunday - Noah Thalmann

Acolyte next Sunday - Liam Voelker

Ushers this Sunday - *John Bott, Brady Kolle, Conner Ohlde, & Cody Ohlde

Ushers next Sunday - *John Bott, Aaron Stuenkel, Cody Ohlde, & Tyler Ohlde

LYF Fellowship Hour today & Dec. 19th - Claire & Camryn Beikmann

LYF Fellowship Hour Dec. 26th & Jan. 2nd - Ella Thalmann & Ryan Stuenkel

Upcoming Events

- December 12** 9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Christmas Eve Program Practice
(Mixed Choir rehearses with kids for 1st part)
- December 15** 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Midweek Advent 3
- December 18** 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Program Practice
- December 19** 8:45 a.m. Mixed Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
10:45 a.m. Adult Bible Class & Christmas Eve Program Practice
(Mixed Choir rehearses with kids for 1st part)
- December 22** 5:30 p.m. Midweek/Confirmation
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Program Practice
- December 24** 6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Program
- December 25** 9:00 a.m. Mixed Choir Rehearsal
9:30 a.m. Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion

Announcements

- * Linn Lutheran School will have a special Christmas Chapel on Wednesday, December 15, at 8:30 a.m. at Zion. Please join us as each class will have a special message to share. As always, Linn Lutheran School has chapel every Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. at Zion, and everyone is always welcome to join us! Merry Christmas from everyone here at Linn Lutheran! We appreciate your support!
- * Regular Sunday School will resume after Christmas on Sunday, January 2. Sign-up sheets are posted on the Sunday School bulletin board, so please check your calendar and sign up for teaching. Sign-up sheets will stay up until December 19th.
- * The Christmas Eve program is Friday, December 24th @ 6:30 p.m. The following is our remaining practice schedule:
 - * - Sun., Dec. 12th: 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
 - * - Sat., Dec. 18th: 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
 - * - Sun., Dec. 19th: 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
 - * - Wed., Dec. 22nd: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- * **CHRIST FOR YOU:** Hear "Advent with the Apostles" on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m.), hear Advent midweek worship from Village Lutheran Ladue at noon on 12/15, and continue studying the Gospel of Matthew on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m.). Hear sacred music for Advent and Christmas through January 6 and find your favorite programs at kfu.org or on the KFUO Radio app.

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 His words, repent all sins, 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, according to Holy Scripture, 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, are asked to refrain from communing with us until such a time as they are properly instructed.

A short, more detailed explanation of our Confessional practice is available from our Ushers or Elders. If you would like to learn more about the Sacrament of the Altar and our confessional position, I would be happy to visit with you.

-Rev. Joshua Hayes, Pastor, St. John Ev. Lutheran Church

In preparation for Holy Communion, you may use the following statements as part of your self-examination:

- I admit that I am a sinner. **(1 John 1:8-10)**
- I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, from Satan and death. **(Acts 4:10-12; John 14:6)**
- I desire to live as God wants me to. **(John 14:15; 1 John 2:6)**
- I am sure of my eternal salvation because Jesus died for me and rose again. **(John 3:16; Romans 8:14; & 1 John 5:11-12)**
- I believe the Risen Christ is really present in Holy Communion and that with the bread and wine I receive His Body and Blood. **(Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 4:22-24; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; Luke 22:17-20)**
- I forgive those who have wronged me.

MORNING PRAYER

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.



Introit *(Psalm 85:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4-5)*

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.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will | say, Rejoice.
Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.*
The Lord | is at hand.

Collect for the 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.

Please email any announcements for the bulletin to Theresa at
theresa_meier@yahoo.com by noon on Friday.

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-8*

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
² 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.
³ A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴ 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.
⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."
⁶ 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.
⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Epistle Reading: *1 Corinthians 4:1-5*

¹ This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³ 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. ⁴ I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ 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.

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 11:2-11*

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

⁷ 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? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written,

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

¹¹ Truly, 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."

As We Gather...

John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "*Prepare the way of the Lord . . .*" (**Isaiah 40:1**). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "*all flesh is grass*" (**Isaiah 40:6**). Now He asks from prison, "*Are you the one who is to come . . .?*" (**Matthew 11:2**). Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The "*stewards of the mysteries of God*" (**1 Corinthians 4:1**) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

CATECHETICAL REVIEW

An Explanation of the Small Catechism **The Lord's Prayer** *(Continued)*

The Fifth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

223. What do we confess when we pray this petition?

We confess that we sin every day and deserve nothing but punishment.

786 **Proverbs 28:13** - He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

224. What do we ask for in this petition?

We ask that our Father in heaven would for Christ's sake graciously forgive our sins.

787 **Psalms 19:12** - Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

788 **Psalms 51:1-2** - Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

789 **Psalms 130:3-4** - If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

790 **Luke 18:13** - God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

The Meaning of Gaudete

The third Sunday in Advent is traditionally known as *Gaudete*, which is the first Latin word of the Historic Introit assigned to this Sunday. *Gaudete* means "rejoice" (*Gaudete in Domino semper* = Rejoice in the Lord always).

Gaudete



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