

A Guide to the Divine Service

Third Sunday in Advent

John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord

9:00 a.m.

December 15, 2024

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: “*Prepare the way of the Lord . . .*” (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah’s coming through repentance, for “*all flesh is grass*” (Isa. 40:6). Now He asks from prison (St. Matt. 11:2): “*Are you the one who is to come . . .?*” Our Lord’s works bear witness that He is the Promised Messiah. 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 Cor. 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.



Midweek Vespers for Advent

Wednesday – 7:00 p.m.

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

December 24 – 7:00 p.m.

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 25 – 9:00 a.m.

Readings for Next Sunday

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Prophecy of the Day: Deuteronomy 18:15-19
Epistle of the Day: Philippians 4:4-7
Holy Gospel of the Day: St. John 1:19b-28

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Gaudete in Domino semper
“Rejoice in the Lord always”

“Gaudete Sunday”
[Third Sunday in Advent]

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*A Confessional, Evangelical, Sacramental, and Liturgical
Congregation of the Lutheran Confessions --
Where the Lutheran Reformation Lives!*

MEMBER: THE LUTHERAN CHURCH – MISSOURI SYNOD

NOTE ON PARTICIPATING IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church throughout history, "closed communion" is observed here, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those who:

- (a) are baptized in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
- (b) have been instructed in the truth of Holy Scriptures as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, have been confirmed in this Lutheran faith and practice, and now embrace this same Lutheran faith in the same way that it is believed, taught, confessed, and practiced in this congregation;
- (c) believe that in this Sacrament the real Body and Blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- (d) repent of all their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services who are able to affirm these facts should speak to our pastor or the elder on duty before receiving the Sacrament. To other guests with us today, we express to you our sincere interest, friendship, and concern, and we assure you that it is for the spiritual welfare of all that we practice closed communion. Those desiring to learn more about our beliefs are asked to speak with our pastor.

[We rise and face the Processional Cross]

Entr. Hymn

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" #344

Confession of Sins and Holy Absolution p. 184

The Service of the Word begins with the Introit

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 rejoice 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.

(Ps. 85:1-2, 6, 8; antiphon: Phil. 4:4-5)

Gloria Patri, Kyrie p. 186

Gloria in Excelsis p. 187

Salutation p. 189

Collect for the Third Sunday of 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. **Amen!**

[We are seated]

Prophecy of the Day

Isaiah 40:1-8

[Comfort My People]

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Gradual

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Stir up Your might and come to save us!

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

You who lead Joseph like a flock!

(Ps. 80:1-2)

Epistle of the Day

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

[The Ministry of Apostles]

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

[We rise]

Triple Alleluia

p. 190

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Holy Gospel of the Day

St. Matthew 11:2-10

[Behold, I send My Messenger before thy face!]

Responses to the Holy Gospel

p. 190

Nicene Creed

p. 191

[We are seated]

Hymn of the Day

"Hark the Glad Sound"

#349

Sermon

[We rise]

Offertory

"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" #849

[We are seated]

The offering is received

God richly bless you for your support of His work among us!

[We rise]

Prayer of the Church

[Please review our Communion Policy inside this Guide]

The Service of the Sacrament

p. 194

[We are seated for the Distribution of the Body & Blood of Christ]

Hymn

"Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"

#350

Doxology

#805

Dismissal, *Nunc Dimittis*, Thanksgiving,

p. 199

Salutation, *Benedicamus*, Benediction

[We are seated for announcements]

[We rise for the Recessional Hymn]

"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

#347