



Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Third Sunday in Advent **December 12th, 2021**



*The Gift that
Changed the World*

HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED AT OUR 5:30PM & 9:00AM SERVICES

Oneness at communion presupposes oneness in doctrine. For this reason we practice close communion, and ask guests desiring to commune to speak with the pastor before the service. To those communicants with dietary needs we offer gluten free wafers.

AS WE GATHER

The American folk song “I Wonder as I Wander” captures the Advent question asked by John the Baptist’s messengers in today’s Holy Gospel. “Are You the one,” they wondered, “or shall we look for another?” We live in a wandering world, constantly looking, seeking, and yearning for that one thing, that one idea, that one person, that one amount of money that unlocks the way to a life of flourishing. We ourselves, wandering as we sometimes do, at times have put our trust in people or things that cannot deliver what only Jesus can. Today we rejoice that amidst our wonderings and wanderings, Jesus is the one. He is the one by whom the blind saw, the lame walked, lepers were cleansed, demon-possessed people were freed, and the dead were raised. Jesus is the one who will restore all creation to its original perfection and who, when He comes again in glory, will restore all things forever.

DIVINE SERVICE FOUR

WORDS OF WELCOME

Elder of the Day

EXPLANATION & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

OPENING HYMN *“O Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”*

LSB 344

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

LSB page 203

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *“Glory to God in the Highest”*

LSB page 204

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

You, Lord Jesus, caused the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the possessed to be free, the dead to be raised.

People: **By Your death and resurrection, You promise to raise us to new life.**

Pastor: You are the One who alone can answer all our wonderings.

People: **You alone are the Way to abundant life.**

Pastor: Fill us with the joy that comes from You alone
People: **that our lives may radiate Your joy in this broken world;**
Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: **Amen.**

‡ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE ‡

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40: 1-8

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

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM ~ Read Responsively

Psalm 85

Leader: Lord, You were favorable to Your land; You restored the fortunes of Jacob.
People: **You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.**
Leader: You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger. Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us!
People: **Will You be angry with us forever? Will you prolong Your anger to all generations? Will you not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?**
Leader: Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation.
People: **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.**
Leader: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

People: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Leader: Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

People: Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the ☩Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. Amen.

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 4: 1-5

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

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA & VERSE

LSB page 205

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 11:2-10

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

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? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft

clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

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

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED

HYMN OF THE DAY *“When All the World Was Cursed”*

LSB 346

SERMON *“More Gifts to Come”*

Matthew 11: 2-10

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Dear heavenly Father, as we wait for the return of Christ, we often grow impatient. We are tempted to disdain our families, dismiss our friends, and deny our neighbors what they need.

People: **Our hearts are often far from joy, but we pray that You would teach us to rejoice in the Lord always!**

Pastor: Lord, in the midst of our rejoicing there is also sadness and struggle. Some among us are sick, injured, and recovering. [*Today we pray for . . .*] Provide them with healing and calm their troubled hearts. In the midst of their suffering, teach them to rejoice in the Lord always!

People: **Again I will say, rejoice!**

Pastor: (*Special petitions that end in “Lord in Your mercy”*).

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, it is most challenging to rejoice when we are surrounded by death. Comfort those who grieve and mourn the death of loved ones.

People: **Place the hope of resurrection before their eyes. Remind them that in paradise we will all rejoice.**

Pastor: Lord, many are struggling with loneliness, especially at this time of year.

People: **Inspire Your Church to reach out in friendship and love to those who need it.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING



✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE LSB page 208

SANCTUS LSB page 208

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING LSB page 209

LORD’S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD & PAX DOMINI LSB page 209

AGNUS DEI LSB page 210

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

HYMN *“The First Noel”* CM 03
17th Century English Carol; Public Domain

1. The first noel the angel did say Was to certain poor shepherds, in fields as they lay, In fields where they lay Keeping their sheep, On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!
2. They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far, And to the earth it gave great light, And so it continued both day and night. *Refrain.*
3. And by the light of that same star, Three Wise Men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, And to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain.*
4. This star drew nigh to the northwest, O’er Bethlehem it took its rest, And there it did both stop and stay, Right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain.*
5. Then entered in those Wise Men three, Fell rev’rently upon their knee, And offered there in His presence Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain.*

HYMN

“Sing We Now of Christmas”

CM 06

French Carol – Public Domain

1. Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.
Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear. **Refrain.**

Refrain:

Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!

Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

2. Angels called to shepherds, “Leave your flocks at rest,
Journey forth to Bethl’hem, find the lambkin blest.” **Refrain.**
3. From the eastern country came the kings afar,
Bearing gifts to Bethl’hem guided by a star. **Refrain.**
4. In Bethlehem they found them, Joseph and Mary mild,
Seated by the manger, watching the holy Child. **Refrain.**
5. Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price;
There was ne’er a place on earth so like paradise. **Refrain.**

HYMN

“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”

LSB 355

NUNC DIMITIS

LSB page 211

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

LSB page 212

BENEDICTION

LSB page 212

CLOSING HYMN

“Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349



OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

5:30PM SATURDAY

Alan Carlson

Elder

Kris Deardoff

Organist

9:00AM SUNDAY

Brian Ternus

Elder

Jerricho Coughlin

Jaden Schmidt

Acolytes

Gretchen Schilling

Organist

Mike Beyer

Congregational Chairman

Rick Melius

Head Elder

