

The Third Sunday in Advent

December 14 and 15, 2024



WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: Rev. Chad E. Hoover
Organist: Lynne Eifert
Choir: CLS Junior High Choir (8:00)
Acolytes: Camden Brooks, Hayden Dambra (8:00)
Liliana Hernandez, Brady Kurtz (10:30)
Elder: John Colter (5:00)
Mark Schuller (8:00, 10:30)
Ushers: Group S2 (5:00)
Group 6 (Greg Peters) (8:00)
Group 5 (Mike Schultz) (10:30)
Communion Assistant: Ryan Abbott (8:00)
Brian Lepper (10:30)

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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Vision Statement

Emanuel Lutheran Church is a united and growing family of Christians joyfully dedicated to furthering God's Kingdom.

† The Third Sunday in Advent †
Divine Service III with communion - Page 184

WELCOME to those visiting us this Lord's Day. It is our joy to have you worshipping with us. We invite you to come again and worship the Lord.

AS WE GATHER ~ Are you feeling the joy? At this point in the month of December, studies show that many people are not feeling joy. Many people are feeling overwhelmed as they approach Christmas, feeling stressors that include not having enough money, missing loved ones, and anticipating family conflict. No matter how we come to our time of worship today, even if stressed, distracted, and frazzled, what great timing to hear what God speaks to us in this season and each day. From all our Readings today, we hear of joy! It is a joy not based on our own momentary perspectives of how things should go, but rather a joy from God's eternal perspective for our sake and what has freely been done for us. As our Advent season continues, may our true joy be found in the one for whom we prepare—Christ, who was born for us and who is with us and for us and is today in our midst as He comes to us in the means of grace.

PRELUDE *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (Manz)

GREETING AND RINGING OF THE BELLS

♪ **OPENING HYMN** ↓ *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* **LSB 515**

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bride-groom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bride-groom near;
Go forth as He approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the Bride-groom is at hand.**

**The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him their diadems of gold.**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption that sets Your people free!**

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INVOCATION ~ Page 184 ↑

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

People: Amen.

(Matthew 28:19)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ~ Page 184 ↑

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. (Hebrews 10:22)

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

(Psalm 124:8)

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Psalm 32:5)

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,

People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

(John 20:19-23)

INTROIT FOR THE DAY ↑

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. (Philippians 4:4)

Pastor: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

People: whose hope is in the Lord his God,

Pastor: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

People: who keeps faith forever;

Pastor: who executes justice for the oppressed,

People: who gives food to the hungry.

Pastor: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

People: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

(Psalm 146:5-8)

♪ GLORIA PATRI ~ Page 186 ↑

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

♪ KYRIE ~ *Lord Have Mercy* ~ Page 186 ↑

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY ~ Page 189 ↑

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)

People: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING ↓

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (ESV)

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes,” says the Lord.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM ↓

(8:00) *We Await You* (Schram)

EPISTLE READING ↓

Philippians 4:4-7 (ESV)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

♪ ALLELUIA ~ Page 190 ↑

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL READING ↑

Luke 7:18-35 (ESV)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

♪ People: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When John's messengers had gone, 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? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

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

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." ²⁹(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

³¹"To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³²They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
"We sang a dirge, and you did not weep."

³³For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' ³⁴The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' ³⁵Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

♪ **People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED - Page 192 ↑

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

♪ **HYMN OF THE DAY ↓** *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding* **LSB 345**
Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!"

**Startled at the solemn warning, let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.**

**See, the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiv'n;**

**So, when next He comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy and with words of love draw near.**

**Honor, glory, might, dominion to the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit while eternal ages run!**

SERMON ↓

Rejoice in the Lord's Truth

Pastor: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds
in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

People: Amen.

♪ **OFFERTORY - Page 192 ↑**

(Psalm 51:10-12)

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

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.

WE PRAY FOR...

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

People: Amen.



We welcome the opportunity to explain what we believe, teach and confess regarding the Lord's Supper. In order not to impose those beliefs on you, we ask that if you are not a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, you would speak with a Pastor before receiving Holy Communion.

♪ **PREFACE ~ Page 194 ↑**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

(2 Timothy 4:22)

People: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. (Colossians 3:1)

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God. (Psalm 136)

People: It is meet and right so to do.

Pastor: It is truly meet, right and salutary.....evermore praising You and saying:

♪ **SANCTUS ~ Page 195 ↑**

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. (Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9)

LORD'S PRAYER ~ Page 196 ↑

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen. (Matthew 6:9-13)

WORDS OF OUR LORD ~ Page 197 ↑ (Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; 1 Corinthians 11)

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread; and, when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

♪ **PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord* ~ Page 197 ↑**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen. (John 20:19)

♪ **AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God* ~ Page 198 ↑**

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Have mercy on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, Grant us Thy peace. Amen. (John 1:29)

♪ **DISTRIBUTION ↓** *The Advent of Our King* **LSB 331**

**The advent of our King our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.**

**The everlasting Son incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on to set His servants free.**

**O Zion's daughter, rise to meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise the peace He comes to bring.**

**As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again
And His true members all unite with Him in heav'n to reign.**

**Before the dawning day let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, the new self now put on.**

**All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.**

Hark the Glad Sound **LSB 349**

**Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.**

**He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, the iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace to enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring with Thy beloved name.**

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns **LSB 348**

**The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.**

**Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.**

**Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lone-some place of death despite the rage of foes.**

**Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes and we shall see His face.**

**The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: come quickly, King of kings!**

BLESSING ↑

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in
body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

People: Amen.

♪ NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon ~ Page 199 ↑ (Luke 2:29-32)

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

♪ THANKSGIVING ~ Page 200 ↑

Pastor: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

People: and His mercy endureth forever. (Psalm 107:1)

POST COMMUNION COLLECT ~ Page 201 ↑

Pastor: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-
kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His
sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You
not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your
Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus
Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

♪ People: Amen.

♪ SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS ~ Page 202 ↑

Pastor: The Lord be with you. (2 Timothy 4:22)

People: And with thy spirit.

Pastor: Bless we the Lord.

(Psalm 103:1)

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION ~ Page 202 ↑

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

♪ People: Amen, amen, amen. (Numbers 6:24-26)

♪ CLOSING HYMN ↑ *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* **LSB 338**

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (Cherwien)