

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Third Sunday in Advent December 11, 2022



Color of the Day: BLUE-the color of the sky-helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky he ascended long ago. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope.

Opening Hymn#334 - O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
Confession and Absolution Page 184

✠ ✠ ✠ Service of the Word ✠ ✠ ✠

Introit Page 186

Ps 71:1 4-18; antiphon: Phil. 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord | always,*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

I will hope con- | tinually*
and will praise you yet | more and more.

My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation | all the day,*

for their number is past my | knowledge.

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;*
I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.

O God, from my youth you have | taught me,*
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,*
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all | those to come.

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.

Kyrie Page 186

Gloria In Excelsis (Omitted during Advent) Page 187

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 189

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.

Old Testament Reading Page 190

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Gradual Page 190

Zech 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you,*
righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle Reading Page 190

James 5:7-11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia Page 190
Holy Gospel. Page 190

Matthew 11:2-15

2Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 4And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5the 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. 6And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." 7As 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? 8What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" 11Truly, 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. 12From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. 13For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, 14and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. 15He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

Creed. Page 191/192

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day. #345 – Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

The Sermon. Remain Steadfast ~ James 5:7-10

Want to read along, miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine? Check out Pastor Bogs' blog at: rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez's blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

In the Old Testament lesson _____:

In the Gospel lesson _____:

James Urges us to Be Patient

Can you imagine _____:

Be pateint as _____:

Work on our _____:

James Urges us to Remain Steadfast

While we await _____:

He uses the prophets _____:

The key might be _____:

We remain steadfast through _____:

The Lord Is Compassionate and Merciful

We know the Lord is _____:

Our Lord shows His mercy _____:

Our Lord shows His mercy _____:

Our Lord shows His mercy _____:

Our Lord shows His mercy _____:

What Does This Mean?

Our Lord helps us _____:

Our Lord works to _____:

Our Lord works because _____:

Be patient, _____:

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

Offertory Page 192

Offering & Prayer of the Church Page 193

Our First Fruits and Tithes are our regular, top priority, proportionate, grateful gifts to the Lord for the work of the Gospel. Our Offerings are special gifts for special causes over and above our tithes. This is an act of worship for members and friends of St. Matthew who are moved by God's love to respond to the Gospel. Guests should not feel obligated to participate.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface Page 194

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus Page 195

Lord's Prayer Page 196

The Words of Our Lord & Pax Domini. Page 197

Agnus Dei & Distribution. Page 198/199

Before partaking of the Lord's Supper, we ask that you read our communion statement on the pew insert behind the Bible. Thank you.

Distribution Hymns #690 – Hope of the World, Thou Christ of Great Compassion

#659 – Lord of Life and God of Our Salvation #331 - The Advent of Our King

Nunc Dimittis Page 199

Thanksgiving. Page 200

Salutation & Benedicamus Page 201

Benediction Page 202

Closing Hymn #355 - O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide