

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Third Sunday in Advent December 12, 2021

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 #338 - Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Confession and Absolution Page 184

☩ ☩ ☩ Service of the Word ☩ ☩ ☩

Introit Page 186

Ps 146:5-8; antiphon: Phil. 4:4

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

Blessed is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*
whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,*
who keeps faith for- | ever;

who executes justice for | the oppressed,*
who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the |

righteous.

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

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading Page 190

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ⁵The 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.

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.

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

Epistle Reading Page 190

Philippians 4:4-7

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.

Alleluia & Verse Page 190

Holy Gospel Page 190

Luke 7:18-35

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."

Creed Page 191/192

Children's Message

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

The Sermon Great in the Kingdom - Luke 7:18-28 [29-35]

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

Today is the _____ .

John Came Preparing the Way for Jesus

Our text for this morning moves us _____ .

John prepared the people _____ .

John came calling the people _____ .

John did his work _____ .

John knew and understood _____ .

John's Disciples

As for John's disciples _____ .

In our text we are told _____ .

Jesus' Actions

Notice that Jesus does not _____ .

After John's disciples left _____ .

Mostly John pointed to _____ .

Jesus then explains _____ .

What Does this Mean?

So we ask the usual questions _____ .

John pointed his disciples to _____ .

Unfortunately, many of the people of _____ .

I would point you to _____ .

We are ready for _____ .

Contrary to _____ .

Like John, I will point you to _____ .

Jesus is coming _____ .

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 Page 198

Distribution Page 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 #349 – Hark the Glad Sound
#333 – Once He Came in Blessing
#334 - O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Nunc Dimittis Page 199

Thanksgiving Page 200

Salutation & Benedicamus Page 201

Benediction Page 202

Closing Hymn #921 - On What Has Now Been Sown