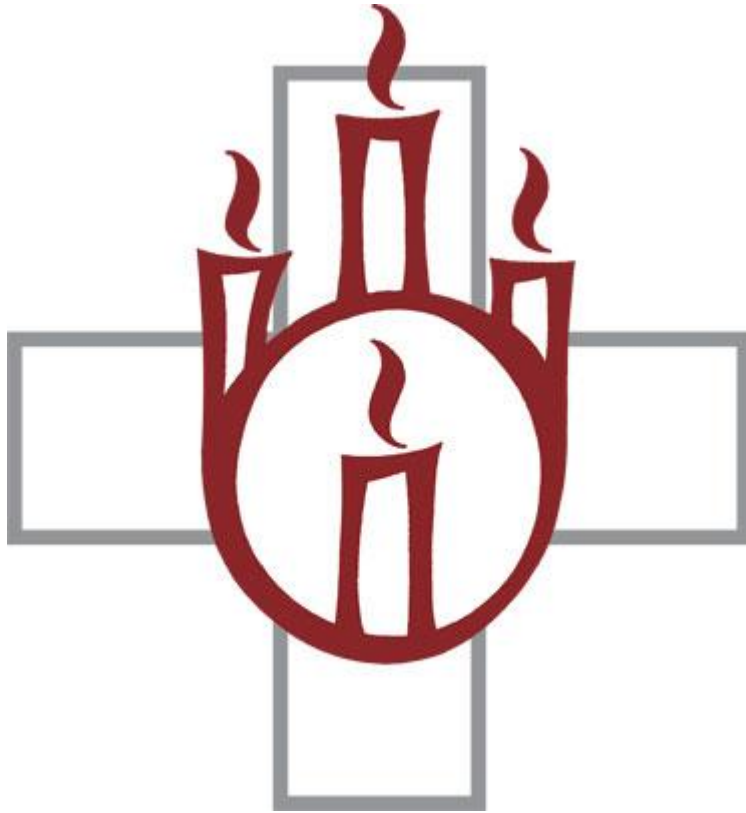


THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 13, 2015

10:45 a.m.



THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR REDEEMER

9135 Shelley Avenue
Overland, Missouri 63114

Pastor James Hageman

(314) 427-3444

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facebook

A MEMBER OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

PRELUDE

“What Child is This” The ORLS Junior Bells

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN OF INVOCATION “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” *LSB 341*

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 85:7, 9

P The reason for rejoicing is the good news that our Savior has come. We are nearing the day on which we celebrate His birth. But we do not always rejoice. This is a symptom of our fallen human nature, and it shows our continued need for Christ. But we just heard that God gives us infinite grace. So, let us confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

(Silence for reflection.)

Kneel

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we have often let the cares of this world, the expectations of our neighbors, and our own self-images distract us from You and Your Word. We have let the things of this world come between us and Your promises, the peace You offer, and even Your Son’s presence among us now. We have failed to love You with our whole heart; we have failed to love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us for Jesus’ sake, and restore in us right spirits and joyful hearts. With the psalmist we plead, “Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation.”**

P “Surely [God’s] salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.” I, a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

INTROIT

Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

P Rejoice in the Lord always;

C again I will say, Rejoice.

P Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C whose hope is in the Lord his God,

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

C who keeps faith forever;

P who executes justice for the oppressed,

C who gives food to the hungry.

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

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

C 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.

P Rejoice in the Lord always;

C again I will say, Rejoice.

ADVENT KYRIE (Cong) “Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349:3

3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.

Public domain



15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
 Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
 While angels sing with pious mirth
 A glad new year to all the earth.

Public domain

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

1 We light the Advent
 candles against the winter
 night, to welcome our Lord
 Jesus who is the world's
 True Light, to welcome our
 Lord Jesus who is the
 world's True Light.

4 Three candles now are
 gleaming and show us the
 true way, rejoice, the
 Baptist cries out, your Lord
 has come today, rejoice,
 the Baptist cries out,
 your Lord has come today!

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ,

C we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation;

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14–20

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.¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak."¹⁷ The 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.¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.¹⁹ Behold, 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

GRADUAL

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

- P** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
C **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**
P Behold, your king is coming to you;
C **righteous and having salvation.**
P Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
C **From the house of the Lord we bless you.**
P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
C **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**
- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:18–28

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.”²⁸ I 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN “When All The World Was Cursed” *LSB 346*

SERMON “None Greater Than the Least” *(based on the Gospel reading)*

APOSTLES’ CREED *(Stand)*

OFFERING *(Sit)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Philippians 4:6; Luke 7:22, 27; Zephaniah 3:16–18*

P Paul exhorts us, saying, “In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” Let us therefore pray for the Church around the world and for all people in their various needs.

P *Jesus told John’s disciples to report that “the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear.”*

P Grant, heavenly Father, that many people rejoice as You bring health and healing through Your servants today, [*especially . . .*].
Rejoice over us with gladness, O Lord;

C **that we may rejoice and exult You with all our heart.**

P *Jesus continued, saying, “The dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.”*

P Send Your Holy Spirit to bless the work of pastors, missionaries, and lay leaders around the world, so that they may boldly proclaim the good news. Give comfort to all who mourn and hope to those who feel alone and forgotten. Open the ears and hearts of those who are dead in sin that they may find new and eternal life in their Savior.
Rejoice over us with gladness, O Lord;

C that we may rejoice and exult You with all our heart.

P *Jesus said that John was the fulfillment of the prophecy, “Behold I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.”*

P Give courage to all who proclaim Your presence to the earthly powers that You have placed over us. Put into places of authority people with receptive hearts that desire peace. Move them to work toward justice for the forgotten, toward prosperity for all their citizens, and toward peace across their borders. Rejoice over us with gladness, O Lord;

C that we may rejoice and exult You with all our heart.

P *Zephaniah prophesied that it would be said, “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst.”*

P Strengthen, we pray, those who serve by protecting and defending our nation at home and abroad. Let not their hands grow weak. Let them know Your presence and guidance while they experience violence and terror. Rejoice over us with gladness, O Lord;

C that we may rejoice and exult You with all our heart.

P *Through Zephaniah God promised, “I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.”*

P Send Your Spirit to increase the faith of all who celebrate the Lord’s Supper this day. Strengthen them in faith to believe and help them find comfort in the forgiveness of sins that comes in, with, and under Christ’s body and blood. May they leave His table with joy and thanksgiving. Rejoice over us with gladness, O Lord;

C that we may rejoice and exult You with all our heart.

P These and all things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Psalm 85:8

P “Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,

C for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints.”

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

LSB 357

ANNOUNCEMENTS (*sit*)

POSTLUDE

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Those serving in worship today:

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor James Hageman

Organist: Steve Kohlmeier

Altar Guild: (8:00 a.m. Lori Hoelting; 10:45 a.m. Lisa Lock;

6:30 p.m. Elaine Fortner

Attendance: 12/06/15 (8:00 a.m.77; 10:45 a.m.89) 12/07/15 (6:30 p.m.)

Sunday School Attendance: 12

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Advent Wednesdays 2015

Services at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The Advent of Our Lord: Christ in the Old Testament and Now

Wednesday, December 2: The Coming of Christ in Prophecy

Wednesday, December 9: The Coming of Christ in Events

Wednesday, December 16: The Coming of Christ in Worship
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CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24, 2015

6:30 p.m. Family Worship Service

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

December 25, 2015

9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion