



Rejoice. . . .

The Lord is at hand

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5

**About the Cover**

One day, like the bright morning light that breaks through the darkness of night, the Lord's second coming will bring rejoicing. While we do not know the day, the Lord is at hand today. God's Word shines brightly, dispelling the darkness of anxiety and fear and replacing it with rejoicing in what He has accomplished for us in the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord is at hand. Let us rejoice today!

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**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.

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.

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.

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."

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."

*Behold, the Lord shall come and all His saints with Him;
and in that day the Light shall be great. Hallelujah!*

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3rd Saturday in Advent

**Church Phone: 812-867-5088 --- December 14, 2024 ---
5:30 pm**

Opening Prayer /// Opening Hymn: *“Jesus Came, the
Heavens Adoring” 353*

Invocation: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit. **C:** *Amen.*

P: O Lord, open my lips. **C:** *And my mouth will declare
Your praise.*

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me; **C:** *Make haste to help
me, O Lord.*

P: Behold, the days are coming, saith the Lord **C:** *I will
raise to David a righteous Branch*

P: A King shall reign and prosper **C:** *He shall execute
justice on the earth*

P: This is His name whereby He shall be called **C:** *The Lord
our Righteousness*

P: Prepare Ye the way of the Lord **C:** *Make His paths
straight*

P: This is the day the Lord has made C: *Let us rejoice and be glad in it*

Psalmody: *Psalm 85*

P: Lord, You were favorable to Your land, O Lord; You restored the fortunes of Jacob. C: *You forgave the iniquity of Your people and covered all their sin.*

P: You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger. C: *Restore us again, O God our Salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us.*

P: Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger through all generations? C: *Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?*

P: Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation. C: *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.*

P: Surely His salvation is near those who fear Him, that His glory may dwell in our land. C: *Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.*

P: Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. C: *The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.*

P: Righteousness will go before Him C: *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 ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Collect: 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. **C:** *Amen.*

Hymn: *“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”* 849

O. T. Lesson: *Zephaniah 3: 14-20*

Epistle Lesson: *Philippians 4: 4-7*

(Please stand) Holy Gospel: *Luke 7: 18-28*

Hymn: *“Hark the Glad Sound”* 349

Children’s Sermon /// **Sermon**

Confession of Faith: *Nicene Creed (back of Hymnal)*

Offering brought to the Altar

Prayers: The families of Krietemeyer, Karen; Krietemeyer, Zachary, Ashlie, Aaron, Ryder and Ava; and LaMar, Scott and Jerrilee.

Lord's Prayer (back of hymnal)

Confession of Sins *C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.*

Absolution: 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. Amen.

Admonition to Communicants: I exhort you in Christ, that you give attention to the Testament of Christ in true faith, and above all take to heart the Words with which Christ presents His

body and blood to us for forgiveness. That you take note of, and give thanks for, the boundless love that He showed us when He saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by His blood; and that you then externally receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a guarantee and pledge. Let us then in His name, according to His command, and with His own Words administer and receive His Sacrament.

Blessing of Elements /// Distribution

Hymn: *“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise” 917*

Closing Collect: *Heavenly Father, You grant us Your Spirit to open our eyes and enlighten our minds to serve You and fellow believers; lead us by Your Spirit to enable us to witness of Your love, live according to Your will, bring Your Word of life to others, rejoice in the goodness You have showered upon us, and reflect Your love in how we reach out to others; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Benediction

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Kirk Horstmeyer, Pastor
Karen Whitehead, Organist

WHAT THE SCRIPTURES TEACH CONCERNING THE LORD'S SUPPER

In I Corinthians 11 the Holy Spirit led Paul to write, "This is my body" and "This cup is the new covenant in my blood" to explain the spiritual truth of the Supper: Christ is truly present in His body and blood in the bread and wine. This is a mystery, a Heavenly gift; one we can only understand in faith. Paul further says, "Therefore whoever eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" and, "let a man examine himself...for he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly." There is no doubt from our Lord's Word, we are receiving His body and blood. The Father offers us forgiveness, unity of faith, strengthening of faith, etc.; it is never our right, we approach His altar only by His invitation. If you are visiting we ask that you please speak with the Pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. We strive to lovingly carry out our responsibility to ensure the supper remains a blessing for all, never a curse. May His richest blessing be upon you all.

THIS WEEK

TONIGHT: Worship w/HC 5:30 pm, "Sweet Treat For Kids" Bake Sale

SUNDAY: Worship w/HC 8 am, SS 9:10 am, Confirmation Christmas Service w/HC 10:15 am, "Sweet Treat For Kids" Bake Sale after each service

TUESDAY: Confirmation 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY: Choir Practice 6 pm, Advent Meal 6 pm, Advent Service 7 pm

THURSDAY: Bible Class at 9:30 (Revelation), Bible Study at 6:00 (Hebrews)

Next SATURDAY: Confirmation 9:30 am, Worship w/HC 5:30

Next SUNDAY: Worship 8, SS 9:10 am, Worship 10:15 am

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE: Advent 1: 6; Sat, Dec 7: 36
LS: 30; Sun, Dec 8: 8 am: 45: 10:15 am: 178

MEMBER PRAYER LIST: Next week we will be praying for the families of Lane, Clay, Paige, Briley, Marley and Blake; Lane, Jerry and Suzanne; and Lane, Matthew and Grayson.

Evans Elementary School Gathering: You can place your items on the table in the Lounge or Storage Room. Thanks for blessing the students and families.

CRAFT SUPPLIES: have been donated and are available to take. They are on a table in the gym and are free. If you are interested, please help yourself.

DECEMBER CALENDAR EVENTS

Confirmation Christmas Service: December 15th 10:15 am— *Isaiah 9: 6-7 Promised Messiah*

Mid-Week Advent Meals: December 18 begin at 6 pm

Mid-Week Advent Services: December 18th “*Prince of Peace*” at 7 pm

Christmas Eve Service: Tuesday, December 24 at 6 pm w/HC with Choir Participation

Christmas Candle- Light Service: Tuesday, December 24th at 10 pm w/HC - “*His Light Came to Earth*”

Christmas Day Service: Wednesday, December 25 at 9 am w/HC - *Celebration of His Birth*