

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 11-12, 2021

**"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education"**



**Music of Preparation  
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting**

**Our Ministry:** We are a people of God who are: **"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education."**

**Welcome!** How astounding to know that you rejoice over me, O God! (Zephaniah 3:17). Help me live in and share this assurance of your deep love.

**Devotions & Publications Available** are found in the main entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

..... **WORSHIP NOTES** .....

**Note About Attendance Cards...**Remember that the only way we may know you are worshipping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. **Please list the name of each person in worship.** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

**To Our Visitors...**Our church and school have a few nooks and crannies, so don't be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available near the guest register in the main (west) entryway.

**For All Who Worship...**If you are arriving after the service has started, please allow our ushers to assist you with seating. We ask that you avoid entering during the confession, prayers, or Bible readings as these are quiet and meditative moments.

**For Parents with Small Children...**We love and want children in our services as a part of God's family, to spend time with Jesus, and to learn how to worship. We also know that kids can be kids. We want you and your children to experience our Lord's love and to have a great opportunity to worship the Lord along with all who are gathered here to praise our Savior's name.

## DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE

*(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 151 in the Hymnal)*

**Notes for Worship:** As you prepare for worship this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for all aspects of the Christian Life (some of the prayers are also located on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

### **Before worship prayer**

*Faithful God, whose mercies are new to us every morning, we humbly pray that You would look upon us in mercy and renew us by Your Holy Spirit. Keep safe our going out and our coming in, and let Your blessing remain with us throughout this day. Preserve us in Your righteousness and grant us a portion in that eternal life which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. AMEN.*

### **We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!**

**Opening Hymn:** "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" LSB, hymn #556, st 1-5

Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,      With exultation springing,  
And with united heart and voice      And holy rapture singing,  
Proclaim the wonders God has done,      How His right arm the vict'ry won.  
What price our ransom cost Him!

Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay;      Death brooded darkly o'er me.  
Sin was my torment night and day;      In sin my mother bore me.  
But daily deeper still I fell;      My life became a living hell,  
So firmly sin possessed me.

My own good works all came to naught,      No grace or merit gaining;  
Free will against God's judgment fought,      Dead to all good remaining.  
My fears increased till sheer despair      Left only death to be my share;  
The pangs of hell I suffered.

But God had seen my wretched state      Before the world's foundation,  
And mindful of His mercies great,      He planned for my salvation.  
He turned to me a father's heart;      He did not choose the easy part  
But gave His dearest treasure.

God said to His beloved Son:      "It's time to have compassion.  
Then go, bright jewel of My crown,      And bring to all salvation.  
From sin and sorrow set them free;      Slay bitter death for them that they  
May live with You forever."

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*

P: Dear Friends in Christ, let us humble our hearts before our Holy God and silently reflect upon our sins.

*(Moment of silent reflection)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
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, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew 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**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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. *John 20:19-23*

C: **Amen.**

### **KYRIE ~ Lord, Have Mercy**

*Mark 10:47*

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **(Sung) Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
**C: (Sung) Lord, have mercy.**  
P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.  
**C: (Sung) Lord, have mercy.**  
P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
**C: (Sung) Lord, have mercy.**  
P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**C: (Sung) Amen.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

**Gloria in Excelsis ~Glory to God in the Highest**      *Luke 2:14, John 1:29*

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
**C: (Sung) Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

P: The Lord be with you.      *2 Timothy 4:22*  
**C: (Sung) And also with you.**  
P: 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.  
**C: Amen**  
*(Please be Seated)*

**Hymn:** "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"      *LSB, hymn #556, st 6-10*

The Son obeyed His Father's will,      Was born of virgin mother;  
And God's good pleasure to fulfill,      He came to be my brother.  
His royal pow'r disguised He bore;      A servant's form, like mine, He wore  
To lead the devil captive.

To me He said: "Stay close to Me,      I am your rock and castle.  
Your ransom I Myself will be;      For you I strive and wrestle.  
For I am yours, and you are Mine,      And where I am you may remain;  
The foe shall not divide us.

"Though he will shed My precious blood,      Me of My life bereaving,  
All this I suffer for your good;      Be steadfast and believing.  
Life will from death the vict'ry win;      My innocence shall bear your sin,  
And you are blest forever.

"Now to My Father I depart,      From earth to heav'n ascending,  
And, heavn'ly wisdom to impart,      The Holy Spirit sending;  
In trouble He will comfort you      And teach you always to be true  
And into truth shall guide you.

"What I on earth have done and taught      Guide all your life and teaching;  
So shall the kingdom's work be wrought      And honored in your preaching.  
But watch lest foes with base alloy      The heav'nly treasure should destroy;  
This final word I leave you."

**THE READING OF THE WORD**

**Old Testament Lesson:** Zephaniah 3:14-20      *(God Gathers His People)*

Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." "The sorrows for the appointed feasts I will remove from you; they are a burden and a reproach to you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you; I will rescue the lame and gather those who have been scattered. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they were put to shame. At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

**8:30 am Special Music: "Great Light"**      *Hosanna Choir*

**Epistle Lesson:** Philippians 4:4-7

*(Rejoice In The LORD!)*

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Stand

**Alleluia and Verse - Common**

*John 6:68*

**C: (Sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

**C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 7:18-28

*(The Messiah Is Here)*

John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?'" At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me." After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: "'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' I tell you, among those born of women there is no one 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: (Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Sermon Hymn:** "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

*LSB, hymn #803*

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

**Sermon:** "Joy In Jesus"

*Philippians 4:4-7*

Stand

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: 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**

*(Please be Seated)*

## Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards

8:30 am Special Music: "My Soul Magnifies The Lord" Hosanna Choir

**OFFERTORY - Create In Me** LSB, Divine Service 3, pg 192-193

**C: (Sung) 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.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** 1 Timothy 2:1-4

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Dear heavenly Father, as we wait for the return of Christ, we often grow impatient. We are tempted to disdain our families, dismiss our friends, and deny our neighbors what they need. Our hearts are often far from joy, but we pray that You would teach us to rejoice in the Lord always!

**C: Again I will say, rejoice!**

P: Lord, in the midst of our rejoicing there is also sadness and struggle. Some among us are sick, injured, and recovering. We pray that you be with those hospitalized this past week (*Especially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). O Lord, provide them with healing and calm their troubled hearts. In the midst of their suffering, teach them to rejoice in the Lord always!

**C: Again I will say, rejoice!**

P: Lord, it is most challenging to rejoice when we are surrounded by death. Comfort those who grieve and mourn the death of loved ones. Place the hope of resurrection before their eyes. Remind them that in paradise we will all rejoice in the Lord always!

**C: Again I will say, rejoice!**

P: Lord, many are struggling with loneliness, especially at this time of year. Inspire Your Church to reach out in friendship and love to those who need it, that together we all rejoice in the Lord always!

**C: Again I will say, rejoice!**

(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . . )

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

**C: Hear Our Prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray:

**C: 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**

## **BENEDICTION**

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: (Sung) Amen**

**Closing Hymn: "Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing"** LSB, hymn #737

Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing, A cheerful trust maintain;  
For God, the source of ev'rything, Your portion shall remain.

He is your treasure, He your joy, Your life and light and Lord,  
Your counselor when doubts annoy, Your shield and great reward.

Why spend the day in blank despair, In restless thought the night?  
On your Creator cast your care; He makes your burdens light.

Did not His love and truth and pow'r Guard ev'ry childhood day?  
And did He not in threat'ning hour Turn dreaded ills away?

He only will with patience chide, His rod falls gently down;  
And all your sins He casts aside In ocean depths to drown.

His wisdom never plans in vain      Nor falters nor mistakes.  
 All that His counsels may ordain      A blessed ending makes.

Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,      And trust His guiding love;  
 Then like a rock your peace shall stand      Here and in heav'n above.

**See You In Worship Next Week!**

**After worship prayer**

*Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.*

*There is a Prayer Ministry Member(s) in each service that is wearing a prayer ministry tag around their neck. Please look for them if you want a prayer for someone else, a concern or situation you may have, or yourself.*

*Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.*

**Altar Flowers** Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of our parents, Rev. James Plautz, Don Ray, LeRoy and Mary Lou Kemp by Paul & Debra Ray; also with prayers for God's blessings for our family, our church family and our country, by Freeman & Nancy Mietzner.



**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

<b>Rev. Karl J. Koeppen</b> . . . . . Senior Pastor	<b>Rev. David Baker</b> . . . . . Missionary to Mongolia
<b>Rev. Roger A. Drinnon</b> . . . . . Associate Pastor	<b>Church &amp; School Office:</b> . . . . . 932-0312
<b>Jamie Stirnaman</b> . . . . . Interim Principal	<b>Mary Weber, Family Counselor</b> . . . . . 932-0312 ext 1458
<b>Church Campus</b> . . . . . 348 E. Merchant, Kankakee	
<b>School Campus and Church &amp; School Office</b> . . . . . 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais	
<b>Church &amp; School Website</b> . . . . . <a href="http://www.stpaulslutheran.net">www.stpaulslutheran.net</a>	

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