

Celebrating 141 years of God's Blessings

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A WARM WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE TODAY...

Before we begin, please:

+ **Sign in the "Fellowship Pad"**, and pass it down your pew. Both visitors and members are asked to fill in their information. You can do this before the service, or during the offering.

+ **Place ribbon bookmarks** at the page for liturgy, and one of the hymns in *Lutheran Service Book*.

+ **Place ribbon bookmarks** at the pages of the Scripture readings in the pew Bibles, if you wish to follow along.

+ **Introduce yourself** to our Pastor, if it's your first time with us; and all are encouraged to greet and get to know their fellow worshipers.

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*In Holy Communion, we joyfully receive Christ's Body & Blood for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. In participating, we publicly confess our unity in Christ's Body, and a harmony of teaching and practice. Congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have promised to practice close communion. **Guests who desire to commune with us for the first time are asked to speak with the pastor before the service, to answer any questions you may have.** You may also wish to review Luther's "Christian Questions with Their Answers," on pp. 329-330 in Lutheran Service Book, and refer to the "Before worship" and "Before communing" prayers inside the front cover of LSB.*

If you are not in fellowship with our Synod, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Simply indicate that by folding your arms over your heart while at the communion rail.

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GOD'S WORD TODAY

John the Baptizer Prepares the Way for the Lord

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord..." (Isa. 40:1). John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "all flesh is grass" (Isa. 40:6). Now He asks from prison, "Are you the one who is to come...?" (Matt. 11:2). Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1) still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

INTROIT

Rejoice in the LORD ' always;*
again I will ' say, Rejoice.

**Let your reasonableness be known to ' everyone.*
The LORD ' is at hand.**

LORD, you were favorable ' to your land;*
you restored the fortunes of ' Jacob.

**You forgave the iniquity of your ' people;*
you covered ' all their sin.**

Will you not revive ' us again,*
that your people may re- ' joice in you?

**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 to ' folly.**

Rejoice in the LORD ' always;*
again I will ' say, Rejoice.

**Let your reasonableness be known to ' everyone.*
The LORD ' is at hand.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

STEWARDSHIP SENTENCES FROM SYNOD

"Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy." A steward manages the property of the owner for the owner's purposes. We are stewards of all that God has given us. So we are called to use all that we are and all that we have for God's purposes. How do we know what these are? Consider your vocations, your callings from God, in the Home, the Church, and Society: what are the roles God has called you to play? And how should you be using the gifts He's given you to fulfill those roles?

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2017

Order of Service

*Lutheran Service Book
Divine Service, setting three*

PRELUDE

HYMN p.344
"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

μ **LITURGY** p.184

μ **INTROIT** bulletin p.3

μ **COLLECT OF THE DAY** bulletin p.3

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 40:1-11 p.762

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 p.1212

μ **VERSE**

μ **GOSPEL** Matthew 11:2-11 p.1036

μ **NICENE CREED** p.191

HYMN OF THE DAY p.345
"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"

SERMON

μ **OFFERTORY** p.192

OFFERING

μ **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** p.193

μ **COMMUNION LITURGY** p.194

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS
"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" p.338
"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" p.347
"The King Shall Come" p.348

μ **POST COMMUNION CANTICLE** p.199
Nunc Dimittis

μ **BENEDICTION**

CLOSING HYMN p.341
"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE