



About the Cover

Jesus responded to John's question concerning His identity by pointing to the scriptural prophecies in Isaiah. "The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them" (Matthew 11:5). When we have questions, the Lord wants us to go back to His sure Word. His Word alone brings faith in Him and reminds us of the forgiveness of sins and salvation that He accomplished for us through His death on the cross and resurrection.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Old Testament Reading:

Isaiah 35:1–10

- ¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
- ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.
- ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
- ⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not!"
Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."
- ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
- ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
- ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
- ⁸ And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
- ⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
- ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Epistle: James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

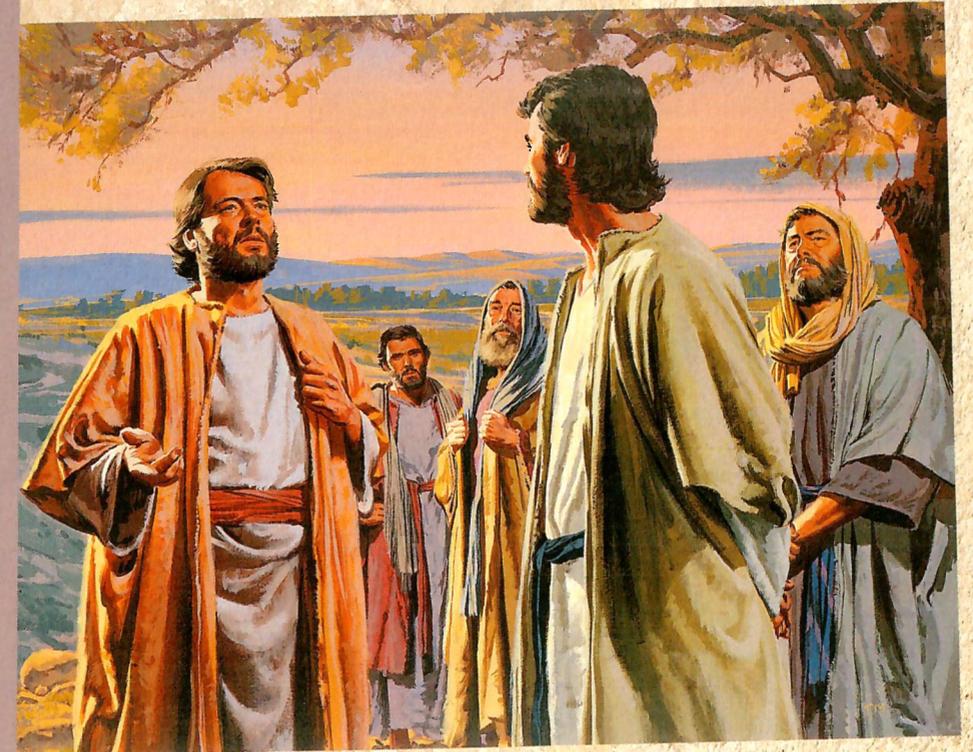
Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2–15

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷As they went away, 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹"Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."



Are You the one who is to come?

MATTHEW 11:3

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 14, 2025

St. Luke Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Rev. Terry L. De Giovanni Pastor

Welcome to Our Visitors

We pray all will be spiritually enriched by your visit to this "House of God." Here Christ breaks the silence that surrounds mortal man in his sin and death. Here in Christ Jesus, we hear the voice of the Eternal One, and hear the voice of the Father, and that He loves us, that He forgives us and that in the resurrection of Christ, He has made us His Children and has given us victory over death itself.

In our Worship, this Morning, we celebrate the Holy Communion. As Lutherans, we believe and teach that in the Sacrament we receive Christ's true body and blood, thus it is our duty to examine ourselves to our worthiness before reception of the Lord's Supper, (see pages 329-330 of the hymnal, Christian Questions and Their Answers). We ask that if you are not a member of our Congregation or a member of a Lutheran Church Missouri Synod congregation, that you speak to Pastor or an Elder before the Service.

THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Liturgy – Divine Service IV Pages 203-212

Ring of the Bells, Welcome, and Announcements

Opening Hymn LSB#515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Invocation

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

Confession – Absolution Page 203 (left side)

The Introit:

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice.

C: I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more.

P: My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.

C: With the mighty deeds of the Lord God, I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.

P: O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.

C: So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

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; again, I will say, Rejoice.

The Kyrie Page 186

The Hymn of Praise O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to Thee, O Israel!

The Salutation and Collect of the Day Page 189

The Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10 (see back of bulletin)

P: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual: (spoken by the Pastor)

The Epistle James 5:7-11 (see back of bulletin)

P: This is the Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

The Alleluia Verse Page 205

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15

The Nicene Creed Page 206

The Hymn of the Day LSB#337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending

The Sermon Lights Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

The Receiving of the Offerings

The Prayer of the Church Response: P: Lord, in Your mercy, C: Hear our Prayer.

The Service of Holy Communion Pages 208ff

The Distribution: Continuous Line

If you desire the Common Cup indicate so to the Elder

The Distribution Hymns LSB#349 Hark the Glad Sound

#359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

The Nunc Dimittis Page 211

The Post Communion Collect Page 212

The Benedicamus and Benediction Page 212

Closing Hymn LSB#345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Saturday Evening Worship: 5:30 PM.
Holy Communion First and Third Saturdays
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00 AM
Holy Communion: Second and Fourth Sundays
Sunday School 8:45 AM Adult Bible Class 9:00 AM