

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

904 Bluff Street Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

A traditional, liturgical, Biblical congregation in the heart of Cedar Falls ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Christ.

Rev. Michael R. Knox, Pastor
(319) 231-9761

Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders, Pastor
(319) 389-5526

Joseph Goodroad, Vicar
(816) 645-0188

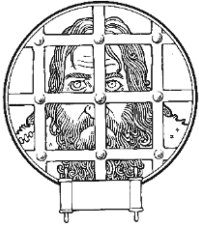
Church Office: (319) 266-2509

Email: orlc@cfu.net

Website: theforgivenessplace.org

THE 3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 11, 2022



TODAY IS THE 3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT As it was last Sunday, so again today, the Church's attention is drawn to the last of the Old Testament prophets, John the "Baptizer." It was noted in last Sunday's bulletin that it would be just as appropriate to call him John the "Preacher", for he is as well known for his preaching as for his baptizing.

But the Gospel account before the Church today tells us that John is no longer preaching and baptizing "beyond the Jordan." Like the prophets who had preceded him, John's preaching had resulted in opposition. He is now imprisoned and while in prison he had experienced doubt - Was Jesus really the

promised Messiah?

John sends some of his disciples to Jesus to inquire. Jesus' answer is to take John, and anyone who doubts, back to the prophetic scriptures. ***"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."*** Jesus reminds John, and you as well, that the Messiah's work had been foretold in the Law and the Prophets. Jesus' public ministry was the fulfillment of those prophecies.

There are many voices and experiences in life that would seek to raise doubt in your hearts and minds with regard to who Jesus is and the certainty of your salvation in Him! Just as Jesus led John back to the prophetic Scriptures, so He would lead you back to the Scriptures of the Apostles and Prophets. These are the foundation of the Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone. Jesus speaks of Himself, but also of you when, after describing John as the greatest among those born of women, He says, ***"Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."***

Of course He can say this about Himself but how can Jesus say this about you? Because your greatness in the kingdom of heaven is not based on what you have done, but on what you have received! You are baptized into the one who is greater than all, Jesus the Son of God. He willingly became the least in the kingdom of God by humbling Himself, even unto death on the cross, for you and for your redemption. You have, and continue, to receive of His righteousness each and every time you commune at the table He sets before you of His body and blood. Here there is no doubt. This is His body. This is His blood. Your sins are forgiven. Where doubt is removed, there is only one thing to say: Amen.

THOSE SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE THIS WEEK

Elder: Ryan Thornton **Service Assistant:** Steven Dekutoski

Organist: Roxann List **Ushers:** Chris Fink, Dan List

Tellers: Cheryl Nissen, Sarah Staker **Shut-Ins:** Dean Fink

GAUDETE

THEY'RE NOT PINK, THEY'RE ROSE This morning you see the Rose colored paraments which are only used twice each year. During the development of Liturgical practice, it became customary to use Rose colored paraments on the 3rd Sunday in Advent and the 4th Sunday in Lent instead of the Purple traditionally used with these Seasons. In old usage, today is called, "Gaudete" Sunday. Its counterpart in the penitential season of Lent is called "Laetare" Sunday. These names come from the first word in the traditional Introit for each day which is translated "rejoice."

This was a subtle change from the penitence associated with Purple to a spirit of joy associated with Rose. The point of both days is to provide us encouragement as the Church progresses toward the end of each respective penitential season. This color change is not something new to most of you for you have already been accustomed to the lighting of the rose candle on the 3rd Sunday in Advent.

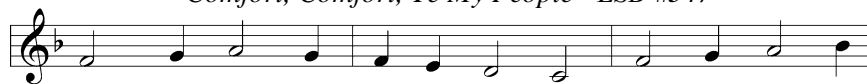
I. THE PREPARATION

Prelude

“O Thou That Tellest” - George Frideric Handel
sung by Olivia Goodroad

Invocation

“Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People” LSB #347



1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus
2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
3 Hark, the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



’neath their sor - rows’ load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
Now o’er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Invocation

P/V: In the name of the Father and of the (✠) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

C: Amen.

The Confession of Sin

P/V: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P/V: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

P/V: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

P/V: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

P/V: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to be the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen.

Mark 16:16; John 1:12

II. SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Introit



Cantor: Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

C: I will hope con- | tinually*

and will praise You yet | more and more.

**My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts, of Your deeds of salvation | all the day,*
for their number is past my | knowledge.**

With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;*

I will remind them of Your righteousness, | Yours alone.

O God, from my youth You have | taught me,*

and I still proclaim Your | wondrous deeds.

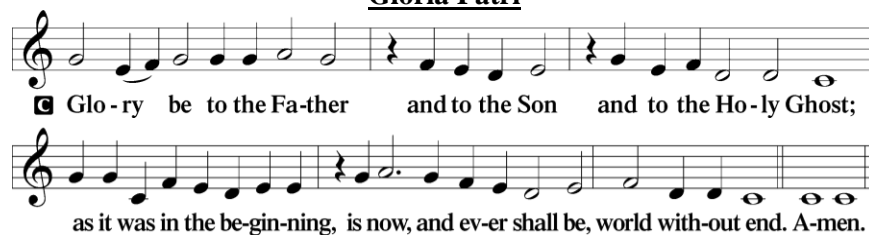
So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- | sake me,*

until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all | those to come.

Cantor: Rejoice in the Lord | always;*
again I will say, | Rejoice.

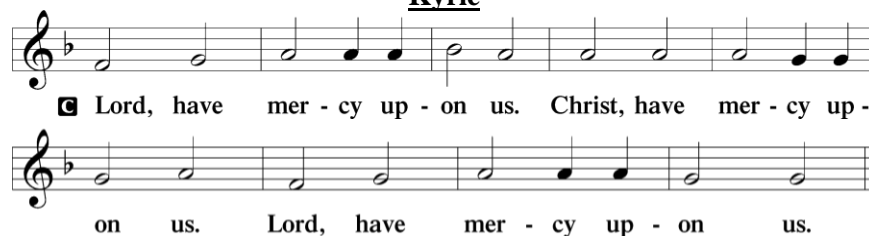
(Ps. 71:14-18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4)

Gloria Patri



Kyrie

Mark 10:47



Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Omitted during Advent as a reminder of the Penitential nature of the Season of Advent

The Salutation



P The Lord be with you.

II Timothy 4:22



G And with thy spir - it.

The Collect of the Day

P: 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.



G A - men.

Be seated

The Old Testament

Isaiah 35:1-10

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual

“Sing Praise To The God Of Israel” LSB #936



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on
3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His
4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:
way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,
lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -
His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and
And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!
liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.
grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.
foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842

Text: © 1992 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001799

Tune: Public domain

The Epistle

James 5:7-11

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

The Alleluia/Verse



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor: Behold, I send My messenger be - fore Your face,*
who will prepare Your way be - fore You.

Matthew 11:10b



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel

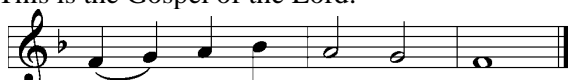
Matthew 11:2-15

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life (✝) of the world to come. Amen

Be Seated

The Hymn of The Day

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding” LSB #345

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the
near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav’n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -
works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv’n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89
Text and tune: Public domain

The Sermon

Following the Sermon, please rise to sing the Offertory



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

The Prayers

Various Petitions are prayed. Each petition will conclude with the response:

P: Lord, in Your mercy.

C: **Hear our prayer.**

The Congregation, gathered for worship in person, will now be receiving the Sacrament of the Altar. This most significant portion of the Divine Service, when our Lord Jesus Christ draws near to His people with His flesh and blood, will not be streamed. Members desiring to receive the Sacrament who are unable to be present in the Church will be visited by one of our pastors to bring them the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Those who have joined us online for the Service of the Word are now encouraged to pray the Lord's prayer.

**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.**

May the Lord bless and keep you.

Please call Pastor Knox (319/231-9761) if you would like to receive a Pastoral visit.

✠ OUR WEEK TOGETHER IN THE BODY OF CHRIST ✠

Mon. 12/12	9:00 a.m.	Vicar's Bible Study
Tues. 12/13	9:30 a.m.	Brunch Bunch at Gravy's
	6:00 p.m.	Vicar's Bible Study at Peace – Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Midweek Advent Service at Peace – Shell Rock
Wed. 12/14	10:00 a.m.	Our Redeemer Book Club
	11:00 a.m.	Midweek Bible Class (Weekly Readings)
	Noon	Midday Advent Service at Our Redeemer
	5:25 p.m.	Choir
	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Advent Service at Our Redeemer
Thur. 12/15	4:00 p.m.	Midweek Youth Catechesis
Sat. 12/17	6:00 p.m.	Bible Class at Peace - Shell Rock
	7:00 p.m.	Divine Service at Peace - Shell Rock
Sun. 12/18	9:00 a.m.	Divine Service at Our Redeemer
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School and Bible Class
	4:00 p.m.	Festival of Christmas Music at Our Redeemer

<u>Sunday, December 4, 2022</u>	<u>Wednesday, December 7, 2022</u>
Attendance: 85 Communion: 75	Attendance: 17/37

MIDWEEK ADVENT SERVICES

Noon/6:30 p.m. at Our Redeemer

Midweek Advent Services are held each Wednesday at Noon and 6:30 p.m. This year throughout Advent we will focus our attention on the words of the Old Testament readings for the week, all which come from Isaiah. More clearly than any of the prophets of the Old Testament, Isaiah foretold the coming of the Messiah. He prepared God's people to meet their coming King. Remaining services include:

Wednesday, Dec. 14 – Isaiah 35:1-10

“Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.”

Wednesday, Dec. 21 – Isaiah 7:10-17

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

*Midweek Advent Services are also taking place at Peace – Shell Rock
on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.*

Readings and Hymns for Wednesday, December 14, 2022 - Midweek Advent 3

Psalmody: Psalm 146 (antiphon: v. 5): Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Office Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound	349
Closing Hymn: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers.....	515

Readings and Hymns for December 18, 2022 - The 4th Sunday in Advent

The Readings: Isaiah 7:10-17; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Invocation: Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come.....	350
Gradual: My Soul Rejoices.....	933
Hymn of the Day: Savior Of The Nations, Come	332
Distribution: Arise, O Christian People	354
Distribution: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	357
Distribution: The Infant Priest Was Holy Born	624

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

THE SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday. Pastor Knox has begun a study of the birth of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. This will continue the Sundays throughout Advent and Christmas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL for students of all ages meets from 10:30 – 11:15 each Sunday.

WEEKLY READINGS/HYMNS STUDY This class meets on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. to study the weekly readings, hymns, and propers for the upcoming Sunday. It is a way to prepare for the coming week's Divine Service. After Christmas we will resume offering this class on Wednesday evening.

THE VICAR'S BIBLE STUDY meets at Our Redeemer on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 9:00 a.m. and at Peace in Shell Rock on the Tuesday of that same week at 6:00 p.m. The class is studying the words of hymns and the Scriptural texts which underlie these hymns.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY The Jr. High/Sr. High Youth meet for Bible Study with Vicar Goodroad on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. and holiness. Because of Advent Services, the Youth Bible Study will not meet during December.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS today are given by Alan and Paula Czarnetzki in thankfulness for the birth of Christ, our Savior. As we are in the midst of the season of Advent and anticipate the Christmas season, let us contemplate the words found in John 1:14: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.)"

FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC On Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m. the congregation is invited to celebrate the Christmas Gospel in Word and Song. The festival will include Advent and Christmas music sung or played by instrumentalists, vocalists, the Sunday School students, the Adult Choir, and the congregation. This is an expansion of what we might normally have thought of as the Children's Christmas program. Please read all the details in the latest REPORTER on page 11.

NATIVITY SETS – Do you have a nativity set that can be displayed on December 18? Immediately following the Festival of Christmas Music, the congregation is invited for refreshments and viewing of Nativity Sets in the Parish Hall. If you are willing to have your nativity set displayed for one evening, please contact Sara Lair (319) 266-1163; sjlair@cfu.net.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES Please pick up your envelopes for 2023. They are on a table in the Parish Hall. If you have questions, please see Rod Lair.

A DRAFT OF THE UPDATED PHOTO DIRECTORY is in the Narthex or Parish Hall for you to review. Please double check it for accuracy today.



CHRISTMAS CAROLERS We plan to go Christmas Caroling on Thursday, December 22 in the late afternoon-early evening. Our first appointment is at Mallard Point starting at 4:00 p.m. We will also go to the Windhaven building at the Western Homes and sing for some of our individual members as well. There is some paperwork to fill out for entrance into Mallard Point. If you plan to sing with us, please get that paperwork from Pastor. Plan to meet at Church and then bring some

Christmas joy into the lives of our Shut-Ins and residents of Nursing Homes.

2023 OFFICERS At the November Voters' Meeting the following were elected to serve as Officers during 2023. The Installation of Officers will take place on Sunday, January 8.

Secretary: Gerry Peterson Treasurer: Tim Koch Board of Education: Ryan Thornton
Youth: Anna Staudinger Communication and Outreach: Jim Niebergall
Endowment Committee: Dave Kmoch
Elders: Tom Strub and Stephen Hoffman
Trustees: Blake Wayson and Kelly Barber

These elected leaders join the following whose terms of office continue in 2023:

President: Roger Mishler Vice-President: Doug Nefzger Stewardship: Rod Lair
Christian Care: Char Strub Financial Secretary: Stephen Hoffman
Elders: Alan Czarnetzki, Matt Kenitzer, Rod Lair, Ryan Thornton
Trustees: Dusty Greiman, Chris Fink, Dean Fink, Brad Bovy
Endowment Committee: Martha Garms, Kathy Niebergall