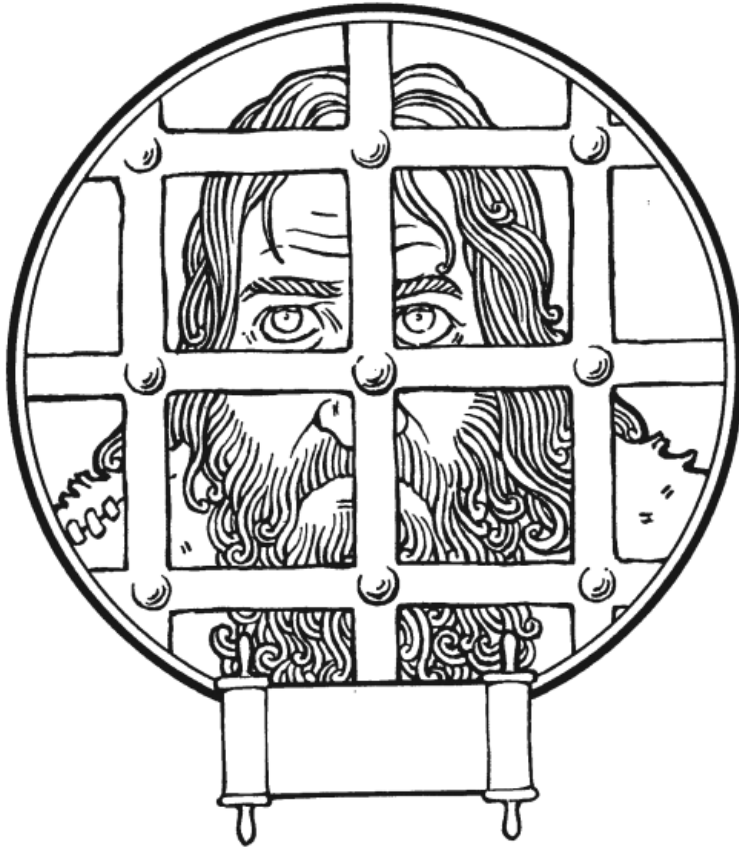


# Gaudete: Advent III

14 December A+D 2025



*“Gaudete”* is from the Latin language. In English it means “Rejoice!” This is the first word of the Introit this week. The color for Gaudete is rose, as we pause halfway through Advent to rejoice.

St. Peter’s Evangelical Lutheran Church U. A. C.  
& Rainbow Preschool  
145 S. 6th Street  
Waterford, Wisconsin

We are a member congregation of  
*THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD*

*Prelude: Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam* by Robert Lind

## Hymn of Invocation: 406 To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

Order of Worship: p. 184

### Introit

*Psalm 85:1; antiphon: Philippians 4:4-6*



Rejoice in the Lord | always.\*

and again I | say, Rejoice!

Let your moderation be known unto | all men.\*

The Lord | is at hand.

Be careful for | nothing;\*

but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known | unto God.

LORD, Thou hast been favorable un- | to Thy land:\*

Thou hast brought back the captivity of | Jacob.



**G** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Rejoice in the Lord | always.\*

and again I | say, Rejoice!

Let your moderation be known unto | all men.\*

The Lord | is at hand.

Be careful for | nothing;\*

but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known | unto God.

### Kyrie p. 186

*During Advent the Gloria in Excelsis is omitted.*

### Salutation p. 189

### Collect of the Day

- [P]** O Lord, we beseech Thee, give ear to our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Thy gracious visitation.; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

*Sit*

## Prophecy

*Isaiah 40:1–8*

Thus says the LORD God: “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” says your God. “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.” The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” The voice said, “Cry out!” And he said, “What shall I cry?” “All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”

- A** The Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalm 80:1–2*



Thou, O LORD, that dwellest between the cherubim, | shine forth!\*

Stir up Thy strength, and come and | save us.

Give ear, O Shepherd of | Israel,\*

Thou that ledest Joseph | like a flock!

## Epistle

*I Corinthians 4:1–5*

Brethren: Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

- A** The Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia & Verse of the Day

*Psalm 80:2b*



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

**Alleluia.** Stir up Thy strength and come and save us. **Alleluia.**

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–10

**P** The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time: When John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: the blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written: ‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.’ ”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day: 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding**

**Sermon**

*Offering Voluntary: Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam* by Friedrich Wilhelm Zachav

*Stand*

**Offertory** *p. 192 ff*

**Prayer of the Church** **P** Lord, in Your mercy, **C** hear our prayer.

**Preface** *p. 194*

**Proper Preface**

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus - Agnus Dei** *p. 195 ff*

*Sit*

**Distribution Hymns:**

**354 Arise, O Christian People /**

**347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People /**

**352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord /**

**344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry /**

**620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing /**

**356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis - Benediction** *p. 199ff*

**Hymn to Depart: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** *sts. 5-6*

*Postlude: Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam* by Johann Pachelbel

**Looking Forward to Advent Midweek III Vespers**

Lessons: Isaiah 7:10-15, Luke 1:26-57

Hymns: 331-356-357:2

**Looking Forward to Next Sunday (Memento Nostri: Advent IV)**

Lessons: Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Philippians 4:4-7, John 1:19b-28

Hymns: 341-334-517:1,6,3-343/346/349/355/623/470-357

**Sunday School Christmas Program next Sunday at 8:30am**

Christmas Eve 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm / Christmas Day 9:30 am

*No service Wednesday December 31*

Epiphany Divine Service Tuesday January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm

**Acknowledgments**

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## We Welcome Our Guests Today!

We're glad you've joined us in worship today. Please fill out a Visitor Card (located in the pew rack) and hand it to an usher or place it in the offering plate. We also ask that you read *"Our Practice Concerning Holy Communion"* printed below. Please visit our **Welcome Center** in the narthex and worship with us again soon.

### Our Practice Concerning Holy Communion

In keeping with the tradition of the early Church and the Lutheran Confessions, we celebrate the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day. Because Holy Communion is an expression of complete unity of faith and doctrine, only active and repentant members of St. Peter's or a sister Missouri Synod congregation may commune. This is not a judgment of the faith of others, but rather an indication of our obedience to the Lord's command that those who kneel together at His altar be in complete unity regarding what they believe and teach (please read I Cor. 1:10; 10:16-17; 11:17-32). Your respect for our practice concerning the Lord's Supper is appreciated. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions.

If communing with individual cup, please hold your empty cup until Pastor has passed you with the chalice. And please remember to fill out a Communion card.

### The Gathering of the Offerings

God finances His church. The gathering of the offerings is, therefore, not merely collecting money. It is a holy privilege for those who believe in Jesus Christ. This is our opportunity to gratefully respond to God's love and grace by returning a portion of the gifts He has given us. As God's children, we consider it a special honor to build and extend His kingdom through our offerings. St. Paul writes, "God loves a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7b NKJV). Our visitors and guests are in no way compelled to contribute to this offering. We ask nothing of our guests except that they return here often to hear more about God's great love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. If anyone wishes to give electronically, you may scan this QR code to set up an account.



### Small Children

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). Jesus wants your little ones present with Him during our worship service. And so do we.

When you're little, it's hard to sit without fidgeting or making some noise. And of course babies join us with their songs, too! We consider their small voices to be a part of our sacred music as they learn with us what it is to be a Christian. We encourage their presence throughout the entire service.

If you feel that your children are being too disruptive, please feel free to take them to the nursery that is located on the other side of the Conference Room. A closed-circuit television will bring the service to you. An usher will be happy to direct you.

*"Repetitio est mater studiorum:* Repetition is the mother of all learning." The more they're here, the easier it will get.

### Church

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