

The Old Testament Reading.Zephaniah 3:14–20

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

The Epistle Reading.Philippians 4:4–7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel Reading.Luke 7:18–35

The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" " In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." When John's messengers had gone, 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? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.' I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) "To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, " 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.' For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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**“Are you the one who is to come,
or shall we look for another?”**



**Third Sunday in Advent
December 12, 2021**

**Website: <http://holycrosskc.org>
Email: church@holycrosskc.org**

Receiving the Lord's Supper at Holy Cross

Our Lord gives both directions and warnings in Scripture when it comes to the precious gift of Holy Communion, which we take great care to follow. A small brochure is available in the pew which describes the importance of the Biblical and historic practice known as "Closed Communion." If you are not under the spiritual care of Holy Cross, please speak with the pastor before communing so that our unity with Christ and with one another may be genuine. Our aim is not to insult, but to instruct and prepare those who earnestly desire to join our communion. So, if you or your children are not yet communicants, you may come forward for a blessing tied to baptism, and you are encouraged to signify this by crossing your arms over your chest as the pastor comes by. The Blood of Christ is offered either in individual glasses, or simply hold out your hand to take the chalice by the base as you drink from it.

Notes on the service: The Third Sunday in Advent continues to focus on the coming of Christ through the preparatory ministry of John the Baptist—now very near its end. Significantly, in view of John's situation, in the *Old Testament Reading* Zephaniah the prophet leads his people to rejoice in the Lord for the salvation he brings. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul leads the people of God to rejoice because the "Lord is at hand." (*Epistle*). But for John, locked in a dungeon, the message of joy escapes him, and he contemplates whether Jesus is "the one who is to come" (*Gospel*). Is Advent joy possible in such suffering? Yes, when Jesus is identified as the fulfillment of all God has promised. Then we can rejoice in His salvation, whatever our lot.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY: (The theme prayer 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.

C: Amen.

Organist. Linda Rusche
Communion Elders. David Johnson & Curt Wendt
Ushers. Rich Rusche, Randy Wilson & Mike Schaubman

Psalm 146



Rejoice in the Lord | always;*

again I will say, | Rejoice.

Blessed is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*

whose hope is in the | LORD his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them*

who keeps faith for- | ever;

who executes justice for | the oppressed,*

who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

Note: Standing and Kneeling are optional

10:00 A.M.

Divine Service Setting Three LSB 184

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn—LSB #345

Confession and Absolution LSB 184

Service of the Word LSB 186

Introit - Psalm 146—(printed at left)

Gloria Patri - LSB 186

Kyrie - LSB 186 (*Gloria omitted during Advent*)

Collect of the Day—LSB 189

The Lessons: (printed on back)

The Nicene Creed - LSB 191

Hymn of the Day - LSB #518, stanzas 1, 18, 3

Sermon - Rev. Perry Copus

Offertory & Offering - LSB 192-193

Prayer of the Church - LSB 193

Service of the Sacrament LSB 194

Preface & Sanctus - LSB 194-195

Lord's Prayer - LSB 196 (Spoken)

The Words of Our Lord—LSB 197

Agnus Dei - LSB 198

Distribution - LSB 199

Hymns—LSB #353

LSB #731

LSB #718

Nunc Dimittis - LSB 199

Benedicamus & Benediction - LSB 201-202

Closing Hymn—LSB #333

Postlude