

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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Advent 3

December 12, 2021

Step by step the Advent season leads us to the coming Savior. The One who came according to God's promise will surely come again on Judgment Day to "judge the living and the dead" (1st Sunday of Advent). How we as Christians look forward to that "final redemption," through which God will glorify us body and soul and take us to heaven with Him!

Advent also prepares us for the coming of God's Son by sending His faithful messengers who proclaim His word of truth (2nd Sunday of Advent). By His coming the Savior would bring a new life and a new strength to those who believe (3rd Sunday of Advent).

John the Baptizer's message proclaimed to all to turn away from sin and to turn to God's Savior for forgiveness. As Jesus' forerunner, that was the essence of John's message and ministry. John not only urged people to turn from sin and turn to Jesus for forgiveness, but stressed how Christians will demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by bringing forth fruits of faith, of which one of the fruits is "*rejoicing in the Lord in all situations.*"

Of interest, too, when the people asked John if he were "the Christ" (the promised Messiah), John pointed to the true Christ who would soon reveal Himself to them by His divine power and saving mission.

Order of Worship: ELH Page 60, The Common Service "*Rite Two*"

Hymns: 110 (1-3), 543, 102, 88 (3)

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Old Testament: Zephaniah 3:14-17. Zephaniah refers to believers with the loving terms of Daughter of Zion, Israel, Daughter of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, and Zion. The realization of our sinfulness may cause us to fear the LORD's coming, but we can rejoice because the LORD our God comes to save us.

Psalms of the Day: Psalm 130. We can rejoice as we wait for Judgment Day because we know that the LORD has forgiven our sins. We put our hope in him who lifts us out of the depths of despair. (*Supplement*).

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7. Even though St. Paul was in prison and had endured many hardships, he could still rejoice and give us the encouragement to do the same. Since God's forgiveness is constant, our rejoicing will also be constant.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.

Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10, EHV)

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18. The Judgment is coming. Those who refuse to repent

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and continue to hold on to their sinful lives will be cut down. But those who repent rejoice in God's good news of forgiveness. This joy will show itself in lives filled with good works.

Sermon: Philippians 4:4-7

Theme - "Rejoice In The Lord Always"

Points to ponder from the day's Scripture readings:

- Old Testament: What does the prophet urge God's faithful people to do?
- Old Testament: Name at least three reasons Zephaniah gives as to why the people should be joyful.
- Epistle: How alone is it truly possible for God's people to be joyous at all times? (Read on in Philippians 4:11-13)
- Epistle: What are some of the characteristics Christians show that demonstrate this Jesus' joy in their lives?
- Gospel: Look up the basic meaning of the word "repent." How would we define what it means in view of what John the Baptizer says?
- Gospel: What did John the Baptizer say demonstrated the sincerity of repentance?
- Gospel: Where specifically do we witness John referencing the law and the gospel in verses 17-18?

Announcements:

+ Please join us for Bible class on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. We are studying the Book of Psalms.

+ Confirmation class: 3:15-5:00 p.m. at the church on?

+ Sunday school on Sunday mornings from 8-8:30 a.m.

+ Christmas Children's Program – Sunday, December 19 normal time.

Zephaniah 3:14-17 – Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing." (EHVTM)

Philippians 4:4-7 – Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, 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. (EHVTM)

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Luke 3:7-18 – So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire.” The crowds began to ask him, “What should we do then?” He answered them, “Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.” Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, “Teacher, what should we do?” To them he said, “Collect no more than what you were authorized to.” Soldiers were also asking him, “And what should we do?” He told them, “Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages.” The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John could be the Christ. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people. (EHV™)

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Advent 3 – Today we light the third candle on our Advent wreath known as the Shepherd’s Candle. This candle is pink symbolizing the joy of the shepherds to know that God sent His Son to be our Savior from sin.

As we witness these candles lit and burning, we sing the three stanzas of **Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel...**

1) Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear. (Refrain) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!	2) Oh, come, O Root of Jesse, free Your own from Satan’s tyranny; From depths of hell your people save, And bring them vict’ry o’er the grave. (Refrain...)
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3) Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight.
(Refrain)