



*Rejoice. . . .*

The Lord is at hand

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“Bringing Christ to the Tri-County Area”

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December 15, 2024

3rd Sunday in Advent

Worship Service at 10:30 am

Divine Service Setting Three (Page 184)

Prelude

Announcements

Processional Hymn: Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You #334

Sermon Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound #349

Theme

“Jesus and John’s disciples”

1. In Christ, we have reason not to be afraid .
2. In Christ, miracles are never far away.

Recessional Hymn: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child # 374

**WELCOME to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod on this day, the 3rd Sunday in Advent.**

**Prepare** for Worship. Enter reverently, pray thoughtfully, enjoy the time prior to worship in spiritual meditation.

**The Nursery/Lounge** is located just past the Ladies room, off the Narthex. Please be assured that children of all ages are encouraged to participate in the worship service.

**Fellowship Register:** We ask (members, friends, and visitors) to fill out The Fellowship Book which is located at the end of each pew. Please include your name, address and telephone number.

## Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 3:14–20

- <sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter of Jerusalem!
- <sup>15</sup>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.
- <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion;  
let not your hands grow weak.
- <sup>17</sup>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.
- <sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn  
for the festival,  
so that you will no longer suffer  
reproach.
- <sup>19</sup>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.
- <sup>20</sup>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.

## Epistle: Philippians 4:4–7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will  
say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be  
known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;  
<sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but  
in everything by prayer and supplication  
with thanksgiving let your requests be  
made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of

God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in  
Christ Jesus.

## Holy Gospel: Luke 7:18–28

<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these  
things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>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?” <sup>20</sup>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?’” <sup>21</sup>In that hour he healed many  
people of diseases and plagues and evil  
spirits, and on many who were blind he  
bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>And  
blessed is the one who is not offended by  
me.”

<sup>24</sup>When John’s messengers had gone,  
Jesus began to speak to the crowds con-  
cerning John: “What did you go out into  
the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the  
wind? <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>What  
then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes,  
I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This  
is he of whom it is written,

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

<sup>28</sup>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.”



**About the Cover:** One day, like the bright morning light that breaks through the darkness of night, the Lord’s second coming will bring rejoicing. While we do not know the day, the Lord is at hand today. God’s Word shines brightly, dispelling the darkness of anxiety and fear and replacing it with rejoicing in what He has accomplished for us in the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord is at hand. Let us rejoice today!