

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325
www.sioxcitystpauls.org



THIRD SUNDAY IN

Advent

8:15 a.m. Sun., December 12, 2021
Sermon: Are You the One?
Text: Luke 7:18-28



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(8:15 a.m. Sun., December 12, 2021)

Servants of God's House

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu DCE Intern: Grace Wolfram

Organists: 8:15 a.m. Sun., Mabel Huldeen

Ushers: Dallas Schulz Team

Missionaries: Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump, Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf,
Rev. Paul Flo, Rev. Charles Cortwright

Readers: 8:15 a.m. Sun. Doug VanCura

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER The American folk song "I Wonder as I Wander" captures the Advent question asked by John the Baptist's messengers in today's Holy Gospel. "Are You the one," they wondered, "or shall we look for another?" We live in a wandering world, constantly looking, seeking, and yearning for that one thing, that one idea, that one person, that one amount of money that unlocks the way to a life of flourishing. We ourselves, wandering as we sometimes do, at times have put our trust in people or things that cannot deliver what only Jesus can. Today we rejoice that amidst our wonderings and wanderings, Jesus is the one. He is the one by whom the blind saw, the lame walked, lepers were cleansed, demon-possessed people were freed, and the dead were raised. Jesus is the one who will restore all creation to its original perfection and who, when He comes again in glory, will restore all things forever.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Let us pray. 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. Amen.

DIVINE SERVICE THREE

Page 184

(The congregation is invited to respond with the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

Hymn of Invocation

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

(stand as you are able for the last verse)

The Wave of Fellowship

LSB 338

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

The Invocation *Matthew 28:19b; (18:20)*

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Sentences *Zephaniah 3:14a, 15b; 16b–17, 20*

P: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart.

C: The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

P: “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

C: The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;

P: He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;

C: He will exult over you with loud singing.

P: 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.

C: We worship You, O Lord!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *Three Advent candles are lit.*

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

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

C: who made heaven and earth. *Psalms 124:8*

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

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalms 32:5*

(A moment of silence for reflection of God’s word and self-examination)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C: Amen.

Introit *Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

C: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

P: who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

C: who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

P: 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.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

The Salutation and Collect of the Day (*Sung*)

Page 189

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: And with thy Spirit.

P: Let us pray. You, Lord Jesus, caused the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the possessed to be free, the dead to be raised.

C: By Your death and resurrection, You promise to raise us to new life.

P: You are the One who alone can answer all our wonderings.

C: You alone are the Way to abundant life.

P: Fill us with the joy that comes from You alone

C: that our lives may radiate Your joy in this broken world;

P: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14–20

(God will gather His scattered people and restore them to Him.)

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

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual We praise God together in the words of the Gradual.

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

C: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

The Epistle Lesson Philippians 4:4–7

(The Lord invites us to bring our worries to Him in prayer.)

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand as you are able)

The Alleluia *Matthew 11:10b*

C: Alleluia, alleluia. Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You. Alleluia, alleluia.

(Please remain standing for the Gospel and the Creed)

The Holy Gospel Luke 7:18–28

(The lame walk, the blind see, and the poor have good news spoken to them.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7th chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord. (*Sung*)

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling 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?” ²⁰And 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?’”

²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And 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. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴When 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?”

<p>²⁵What 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. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,</p>	<p>“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ²⁸I 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.”</p>
--	---

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ. (Sung)

Page 191

The Apostles' Creed

(Please be seated)

Hymn of the Day “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

LSB 803

Sermon *Are You the One? Text: Luke 7:18–28*

Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul's members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings.

Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please put your **Welcome Card** in the box at the back of the church.

2 Corinthians 9:7—The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Offertory Hymn “Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349

(stand as you are able)

The Offertory (Sung) *Psalms 51:10-12*

Page 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

The Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Heavenly Father, You rescue the daughter of Zion from her enemies and take away the judgments against her. Look with compassion upon Your people wherever they suffer for the name of Jesus. Give them wisdom when they are pressured to compromise, provide when they suffer loss, give courage when they are afraid, and

strengthen them in the midst of persecution until You deliver them. Preserve them always in the joyful hope that You will restore all that is lost with what cannot be taken away. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty God, as You once sent messengers before the face of Jesus to prepare His way, so strengthen and encourage all pastors and church workers as they make known His saving name. Open the ears of all who hear to rejoice, repent and firmly believe. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: O Giver of all good gifts, look upon the households of Your people. Provide companionship for those who are alone, strengthen the bonds of marriage and equip parents to raise their children in love and faith. Grant that our homes may be places of joy, reasonableness, peace and prayer. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, You set the prisoners free. Remember those who are incarcerated justly, and grant that they might repent, be freed from the clutches of sin, accept the consequences of their wrongdoing, and learn to live honestly and peacefully. Remember all those who are imprisoned unjustly. Restore their freedom according to Your will, and preserve them in Your grace and the confidence that You know what is true and just. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Heavenly Father, Your Son became flesh and healed the sick of all kinds of diseases and afflictions, demonstrating His power and giving us a foretaste of the resurrection on the Last Day. Have mercy upon all those in need of deliverance *especially Helen Eriksen Joseph Hood and Linda Brinkert*. Heal them in Your time and according to Your will, and preserve them in the confidence that You will deliver Your people from all afflictions at the resurrection of all flesh. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: For those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Kevin Kennedy, Bennett Schweder, Jeff Arndt, Chris Conlon, Karen Fluent, Amber Gilmore, Kiley Kennedy, Amanda Segebart, Marlene Baumann, Karen Egdorf and Bryan Rogers. Lord in Your mercy.

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, heavenly Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P: 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.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn “Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

LSB 353

Silent Prayer

Postlude

+ + + + + + +

*ORDER OF SERVICE is reprinted from Lutheran Service Book, Copyright (c) 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted by permission

2021 Advent Midweek Services

“When Heaven Met Earth:

Advent Answers to Hard Questions

Hardly Anybody Is Asking”

(There will be a meal provided following the 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Service)

Date	Time	Theme
Dec 15	12:15 & 6 PM	The Man’s Man: Why Would Jesus Ever Cry? Luke 19:41–44; John 11:30–36

Christmas Eve Services— 6 and 11 p.m. Friday, December 24

Christmas Day Service— 9 a.m. Saturday, December 25

New Year’s Eve—6 p.m. Friday, December 31st