



Third Sunday in Advent

Gaudete (Rejoice)

December 13, 2020

Faith Lutheran Church

Parrish, FL 34219

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Rev. Patrick Poock

Opening Hymn “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

#338

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by**

what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Declaration of Grace

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 85: 1-2, 6; 8; antiphon: Phil. 4: 4-5

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always;

Cong.: again I will say, Rejoice

Pastor: Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.

Cong.: The Lord is at hand.

Pastor: LORD, you were favorable to your land;

Cong.: You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

Pastor: You forgave the iniquity of your people;

Cong.: you covered all their sin.

Pastor: Will you not revive us again,

Cong.: that your people may rejoice in you?

Pastor: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

Cong.: for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

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.

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always;

Cong.: again I will say, Rejoice

Pastor: Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.

Cong.: The Lord is at hand.

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40: 1-11

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries: "*In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*" ⁴ *Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.* ⁵ *And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.*" ⁶ A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" *All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.* ⁷ *The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass.* ⁸ *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.* ⁹ *Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"* ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 4: 1-5

¹ This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. ³ But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴ For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

+ALLELUIA & VERSE+ (sung)

LSB 156

*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia*

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11: 2-11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 11th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “*Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?*” ⁴ And Jesus answered them, “*Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.*” ⁷ As they went away, 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? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, “‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day *“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”*

#344

SERMON

Apostles’ Creed

p. 159

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body

and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

LORD’S PRAYER (sung)

C Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth

**as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever. Amen.**

Collect

P Lord God, we humbly confess to You that we deserve Your fatherly chastisement for our sins; yet we earnestly implore You, for Your name's sake, to spare us in this time of disaster. Restrain all harmful powers and help Your suffering people that Your Word may be declared faithfully and without hindrance and that we, amending our sinful lives, may walk in safety and peace according to Your holy commandments; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

LSB 166

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.**

Closing Hymn **“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”**

#917



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Patrick Poock

Organist: Bill Vlasak