

Introit for Third Sunday in Advent

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

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.

The Lord is at hand.

LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.**

Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?

**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
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.**

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

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.

The Lord is at hand.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak 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.

³A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every 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.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A 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.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you 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!"

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He 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.

A O Lord, have mercy on us. **G** Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But 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. ⁴I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore 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.

A O Lord, have mercy on us. **G** Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the 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. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷As 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹Truly, 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 O Lord, have mercy on us. **G** Thanks be to God.

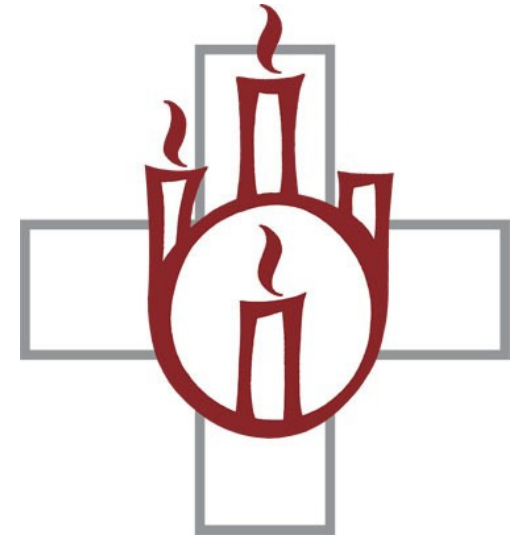
HOLY CROSS and ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN DUAL PARSH

Cole Camp, Missouri

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Third Sunday in Advent – Gaudete

December 16, 2018



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Regional Ministry Website: <http://colecampregionalministry.org>

WELCOME! During the season of Advent we “welcome” Christ to the earth, long after the fact, of course. Your being here, dear visiting friend, gives us opportunity to welcome you as well. Welcoming Christ into our lives fill us full yet leaves room and to spare for you!

WE WILL BE CELEBRATING THE LORD’S SUPPER during our worship service next Sunday morning. Please fill out a communion registration card today if you plan to use this Sacrament for the strengthening of your faith and give it to the usher as you leave church.

THOSE USING THE MEANS OF GRACE AT OUR SERVICE LAST WEEK

Worship Service: 116; Holy Communion: 73; Bible Class: 20
Joint CCRM Mid-Week Advent Service at St. John’s - 165.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK of December 2 – December 9

TODAY: Register for Holy Communion

Sunday School Christmas Eve Program practice at **St. John’s**, 1:30 p.m.
Christmas Cantata Practice at Trinity, 4:00 p.m.

WED.: LSA Chapel Service, 8:05 a.m. at Trinity – all are invited!

Advent Supper at **Mt. Hulda**, Serving Pulled Pork Sandwiches at 6:00 p.m.
CCRM Joint Mid-Week Advent Worship **Mt. Hulda**, 7:00 p.m.

THUR.: Men’s Bible Study at Classic, 7:00 a.m.

Women’s Bible Study at Trinity, 9:30 a.m.

Bulletin Deadline, 12:00 noon (email to karen.oelrichs@gmail.com)

SAT.: Evening Worship with Communion at Trinity, 6:30 pm; Bible Class at 7:30 pm

NEXT SUN.: Dual Parish Worship Service with Holy Communion at St. John’s, 9:00 a.m.
Dual Parish Sunday School and Bible Class at St. John’s 10:30 a.m.
Christmas Cantata Practice at Trinity, 4:00 p.m.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Eileen Brandes, Ethelene Jagels, Alice Borchers, Thomas Eckhoff, Lora Harms, Gayle Hayden (former member of Holy Cross; cancer treatment), Bill Talbott, Bonnie Fitzpatrick (niece of Dorothy Holtzen), Greg Ives, and members and loved ones in nursing homes or restricted to their homes.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE will be held TODAY at **St. John’s** from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Watch for announcements for next week’s practice time and location.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA PRACTICE will be TODAY at 4:00 pm at Trinity. If you like to sing, please join us! The Cantata will be Sunday, Dec. 30th at 4:00 pm also at Trinity.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICE AND DINNER: Wednesday evening, December 19th will be our Cole Camp Regional Ministry joint mid-week Advent Service which will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at Mt. Hulda. Mt. Hulda will be hosting the Advent dinner with a menu of pulled pork sandwiches, chips, cake, and ice cream beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please join us for some good food and fellowship!

THERE WILL BE A DOOR OFFERING taken today and another opportunity next Sunday for the purpose of purchasing a dual parish computer for Pastor Poppen’s office. Matching Funds are available, so your gift will be doubled for the first \$400. If you have any questions, please contact the dual parish treasurer, Marvin Dieckman.

UPDATES are needed for the 2019 Church Directory. Submit any mailing address, email address, or phone number changes to Karen Oelrichs by Sunday, Dec. 30th. Also please check the 2018 Directory and make sure all your information is correct; if not, please let Karen know at 668-2425 or email her at karen.oelrichs@gmail.com. Thanks!

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY: The average Financial Peace University Graduate saves \$1000 and pays off \$5300 in debt in 90 days. Would you like to be one of them? The Cole Camp Regional Ministry will be facilitating Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University (FPU) class beginning January 9th. This will be a 9 week course teaching budgeting, paying off debt, investing, insurance, and a host of other financial topics, but it will be taught using Biblical principles. If you would like more information or would like to reserve your spot for the class, please contact Pastor Poppen – phone 605-695-8043 – or email at colecamlutheran@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: The Children’s Christmas Eve Service is scheduled to be held at Holy Cross (tentatively) on Monday evening, Dec. 24, beginning at 6:00 p.m. There will be a Service of Carols and Readings at St. John’s on Christmas Eve beginning at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight services are scheduled to be held at both Mt Hulda and Trinity, each beginning at 11:00 p.m. The Christmas Day Worship Services are scheduled to be held at Holy Cross (tentatively), Mt. Hulda, and Trinity, each beginning at 9:00 a.m. Have a most blessed and meaningful Christmas season!

THANK YOU from the Cole Camp Food Pantry to the members of Holy Cross and St. John’s for your gift of \$64.00 from last Sunday’s door offering. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

HOLY CROSS MEMBERS are reminded to pick up your copy of Portals Of Prayer which are on the table in the back of the church.

HOLY CROSS MEMBERS: Donations to help pay for work on the sanctuary floor and pews may be made by placing it in the Sunday morning offering plate with a designation of SPECIAL ACCOUNT on the envelope or given directly to the treasurer Evelyn Brandes. If the donation is in memory of someone, please include that information in the envelope.

OUR SERVICES CAN BE VIEWED on YouTube on our Holy Cross website (the address is printed on the front of the bulletin). When you go to the website, on the list to the left of the picture of the church, hover over or click on “gallery”, then click on “videos”. You may click on the date of the service that you would like to view. A special thank-you to our videographers, Marvin Dieckman and Art Heimsoth for making this valuable service available to us!

Today’s Service

Third Sunday in Advent
Gaudete

Matins

page 219

Hymn of Invocation: 349

“Hark the Glad Sound”

The Introit

(Printed on the back of the bulletin)

The Collect of the Day

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.

G Amen.

The Readings:

Isaiah 40:1-11—Comfort! God’s Word stands forever.

1 Corinthians 4:1-5—Stewards of the Mysteries of God

Matthew 11:2-11—Message from John the Baptist

Hymn of the Day: 344

“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

Sermon

Text: Isaiah 40:1-11

Theme: “Comfort”

Closing Hymn: 343

“Prepare the Royal Highway”