

*The LORD your God
is in your midst.*

Zephaniah 3:17



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

Greeter This Week: Beverly Bodden

Greeter Next Week: John & Margie Swannack

Reader This Week: Wanda Hays

Reader Next Week: Neal Moritz

Acolytes This Week: Hayden Leist

Acolytes Next Week: Peyton Diebel

Altar Guild This Month: Betty Diebel & Virginia Jank

Altar Guild Next Month: M'Liss Moore & Virginia Abrameit

Communion Assistant This Month: Wanda Hays

Communion Assistant Next Month: Johnny Jank

Happy 3rd week of Advent!



MISSION STATEMENT

We the members of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Meyersville, strive to be witnesses for Christ, a Christian family striving to be models and examples to others, loving one another and trying to be friendly to all; acknowledging that we are sinful, but being patient, faithful, giving, caring, forgiving, and forgiven believers.

Worship Notes regarding Today's Service:

Thank you for attending this morning's service. We thank God that we continue to be able to gather together and worship inside our church. We are not mandating any seating, nor do we mandate wearing a mask. However if you feel more comfortable wearing one, please feel free to do so. There is hand sanitizer available at each door as you enter and smaller bottles in each pew for your use. At the place in the service where we "Share the Peace" and we would typically move about the church sharing the peace of Christ, we would ask that you remain at your seat, where you might share the peace with immediate family members or look around the church "share the peace" at a distance or give an "air-hug" to others you see. For those uncomfortable with this amount of personal contact we welcome you to continue to take part in the service by listening in your vehicle in the parking lot. We will continue to broadcast the service on FM 101.5 and you can follow the service in the bulletin as the liturgy, the organ music, hymns with the lyrics by our song leaders, and Pastor John's message will be on the broadcast. Thank you for your patience as we all look forward and pray for the day when we might worship without the concern for this pandemic.

The Service begins with the first notes of the prelude. Please show your respect with silent meditation at this time.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

ANNOUNCEMENTS PRAISES AND CONCERNS

Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ *The Dwight Jander Family*

HYMN: LBW #56 1st Verse

"The First Noel"

**The first Noel the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winters night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the king of Israel!**

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

L Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

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

L Most merciful God,

All We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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

L Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

HYMN:

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

LBW #25

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;

The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.

The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.

Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near;

Go forth as he approaches With alleluias clear.

The marriage feast is waiting; The gates wide open stand.

Arise, O heirs of glory; The bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff'rings bore,

Shall live and reign forever, When sorrow is no more.

Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold;

In triumph cast before him Their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;

Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.

With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see

The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free!

GREETING

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy

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

C Lord have mercy

L 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.

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

C Lord have mercy.

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

C Amen

L Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:

We worship you, we give you thanks,

We praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world'

Have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father;

Receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,

You alone are the Lord, You alone are the

Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray;

Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and 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.

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴“Sing 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.

Responsive Psalm Reading

Psalm 85

¹You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**²You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

³You have withdrawn all your fury
and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.

**⁴Restore us then, O God our Savior;
let your anger depart from us.**

⁵Will you be displeased with us forever?
will you prolong your anger from age to age?

**⁶Will you not give us life again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**

⁷Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

**⁸I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.**

⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

**¹⁰Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

¹¹Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

**¹²The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.**

¹³Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

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.

GOSPEL VERSE

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

GOSPEL READING: Luke 7:18-28 [29-35]

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

C Glory to you, 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? 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, ‘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.” [²⁹(When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) ³¹“To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³²They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’ ³³For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ³⁵Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”]

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

MESSAGE

**Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne,
And ev’ry voice a song.**

**He comes, the pris’ners to release,
In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst,
The iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
To enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
Your welcome shall proclaim,
And Heav’n’s eternal arches ring
With your beloved name.**

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The holy catholic church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting.

Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always,

And also with you

Offering – If you wish to give an offering it will be received as you leave.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a
Right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your
Presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from’ me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
And uphold me with your free Spirit.**

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

**Lord, listen to Your children praying, Lord, send Your spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to Your children praying, Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace!**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

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

HYMN:

"Beautiful Savior"

LBW #518

**Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man! Truly I'd love thee,
Truly I'd serve thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring; Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer, He makes the sorrowing spirit sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high; Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.**

**Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man! Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration, Now and forevermore be thine!**

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

THE DOXOLOGY

HYMN: LBW #565

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

Today 12/12 Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Confirmation Class
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
(Christmas Program Practice during Sunday School)
10:15 a.m. Worship ~ **Congregational Meeting**
after the Service

Mon 12/13 Office Closed

Tues 12/14 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours

Wed 12/15 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours
1:30 p.m. Quilters
7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study

Thurs 12/16 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours

Fri 12/17 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Office Hours

Next Sun Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
(Christmas Program Practice during Sunday School)
10:15 a.m. Worship
~ 6:00 p.m. **Bethlehem Village Christmas Program** ~



Welcome Visitors! We would like to extend a special welcome to all visitors. If you are looking for a church home, we pray you would consider St. John's.

Prayer request cards are available in the pews and can be filled out and handed to an usher during the first hymn for your request to be included in the day's prayer. If you have a private prayer request please fill out the appropriate side and give to the pastor.

Sunday, December 5, 2021

General \$1,989.00, MOM-Samaritan's Purse \$200.00, Cemetery \$10.00, Building \$45.00, OSC \$30.00, Organ \$715.00, Reno. \$400.00, Youth \$30.00, Sunday School \$13.75 **Total: \$3,432.75**

Attendance: Worship - 79 Sunday School - 11 - Children, 13 - Adults Confirmation - 6

BUDGET



Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational immediately following the service today to approve the upcoming budget.

~ THANK YOU ~

Thank You to the Terry Haun family for donating & putting up the new artificial Christmas tree this year! It is beautiful! In addition, Thank You to them for all the years in the past when they would go and get the natural tree and put it up. Your kindness is greatly appreciated!



Mission of the Month of December



This month's Mission Project

Samaritan's Purse Mission Statement

Three examples of their outreach are:

U.S. Disaster Relief: Since 1998, over 83,000 volunteers have worked with our staff to help more than 28,000 families impacted by U.S. natural disasters—hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, floods, and ice storms—by quickly providing emergency supplies, repairing, cleaning and rebuilding homes. Five disaster relief units, tractor-trailers stocked with tools and cleanup supplies, are ready to deploy when disasters strike.

Children's Heart Project: This project brings children to North America to receive life-saving surgery not available in their home countries. To date, Samaritan's Purse has arranged surgery for more than 1,000 children with heart defects.

Operation Heal Our Patriots — This program is designed to strengthen the marriages of wounded and injured members of the U.S. Military. The primary component is Samaritan Lodge Alaska, a wilderness retreat offering outdoor activities and Biblically based marriage enrichment classes. To date, more than 500 people have been through the program.



Thank You

Thank you to the ladies who decorated our church for Christmas and thank you to the youth & parents who helped decorate the Christmas tree! It all looks great, your time is greatly appreciated!

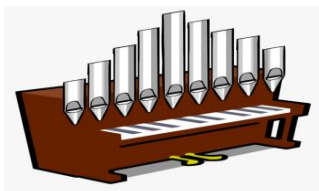
NALC Warehouse

We will be collecting for the warehouse all year. Each month we will feature items to be donated. We will start collecting again in January 2022. Thank you to all who donated in 2021.



Organ Fund

The congregation voted on October 17, 2021 to upgrade our organ which is in need of a major overhaul. The cost of the upgrade is \$69,117.00 and we have received \$63,115.35 in designated giving to the fund to date. Any contributions should be marked as Organ Fund. Thank you from the Organ Committee and Church Council.



NEW Church Renovation Update

Remaining items for the construction progress are to correct construction errors related to landing elevation and drainage, modification of steps to meet original architectural plans, and elimination of flatwork ponding on approach to elevator, at contractor's cost. After completion, a final walk through will be held to address any items that need to be touched up. The current invoiced total for cost of construction, change orders, materials testing, architect, grass planting, and incidentals is \$600,850.80. Designated giving and memorials received to date total \$603,083.30.





St. John Lutheran Sunday School & Youth Group Christmas Program Information

Christmas is right around the corner, and it's time to prepare for our Sunday School Christmas program! "The Village of Bethlehem" will be held on Sunday December 19th at 6:00 pm outside under our new covered walkway. Each class will be assigned a booth to create and learn about for the program. These parts of the play will be practiced during Sunday school starting at the end of October. As an example, our Pre-K and Kinder class will be The Shepherds booth. They will learn in their classroom what a shepherd did, how they took care of their flocks, what the animals ate and drank, etc. They will also be working on decorations for their booth. During the program, the booths will be setup for all attendees to pass by with

a list of questions you can ask the students. All the booths will be setup in a village format to allow all attendees to see and visit every booth. The Live Nativity will also be setup to complete our Bethlehem village! Each class will also learn a Christmas song to sing with their class, which will be performed at the beginning and ending of the program so all attendees can watch.

We hope you are as excited about this program as we are! We're looking forward to learning more about each of the booths in the village and seeing all the decorations the students create! It is highly important to keep attending Sunday school from now until the program. Each class will be working on their booths in addition to their daily lessons. The students will also be practicing their songs for the program in their classes. Please contact us with any questions, and we thank you so much for having your child be a part of our Sunday School program.

With God's Love,

Johnna Kethan 361-649-4234, Kathy Dunn 361-275-4322, Laurie Pokluda 361-275-4232, Trish Hood 361-212-7322 and Lenzi Moritz 361-772-6312.



Services:

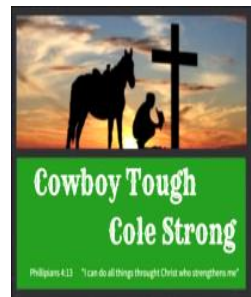
Communion Service 3:00 pm

Candlelight Service w/ Communion 10:00 pm

+ UPDATE + Special Prayers for Cole



Cole is at home doing well surrounded by the love and support of all his family and friends. He continues to have therapy on a daily basis at his home and is now receiving therapy in Victoria on his new fabulous walking machine, the Lokomat Pro. This machine is a robotic training system that allows Cole's legs to be attached to robotic legs that assist with basic walking functions. It's an awesome machine and God has truly blessed Cole once again. Cole and his family want others, in need of this type of therapy, to share



in this wonderful blessing and be able to also use this machine. God is truly at work thru Cole. God continues to be with Cole each and every day strengthening his faith, patience, and courage as he travels down this long and difficult journey. We thank each and every one again for all your prayers, concerns, and support for Cole and his family. We ask for you to continue praying for Cole's healing and for strength and patience for him and his family. Thank you and God Bless.

+Please pray at 12:00 PM daily for Cole+

At his request, these are the prayers he has on his list:

Healing- physical, emotional & spiritual

To help family stay strong

Patience

Stay positive

The drive to keep trying (perseverance)

Fill the Warehouse!

(The cheapest place to shop for supplies!)

NALC Disaster Response

What's in a Flood Bucket?

- 1 bucket (5 gallon) with a lid – Firehouse Subs \$3.00 ea.
(Check other restaurants, donut shops, school kitchens, etc.!)
- 1 roll paper towels – Walmart 44 cents a roll
- 1 powder cleanser – Walmart 88 cents ea.
- 1 floor cleaner – small! (like Pine Sol, Fabuloso) – Dollar Tree \$1.00 ea.
- 1 bottle bleach – small! – Dollar Tree \$1.00 ea.
- 1 pair rubber gloves – Dollar Tree \$1.00 ea.
- 1 scrub brush – Dollar Tree \$1.00 ea.
- 1 pair leather gloves – Home Depot 3 pk under \$6.00
- 1 pair cotton gloves – Walmart 6 pk under \$5.00/Home Depot or Lowe's \$1.00 ea. Pr
- 2 contractor trash bags (3 mil) – shop around.....
- 2 rags – Don't buy! Cut up old bath & beach towels, dish towels, wash cloths.....

What's in a Health Kit?

Soap: 1 regular size bar or 2-3 travel size*

Shampoo: 2 or 3 travel size* (or 1 small size)

Lotion: 1 or 2 travel size*

**Ask for donations from people you know that stay in hotels!*

- 1 deoderant – Walmart 88 cents ea.
- 1 toothbrush – Dollar Tree 4 for \$1.00
- 1 toothpaste (travel size) – Walmart (or for a bigger tube) 77-90 cents ea.
- 1 comb – Dollar Tree 12 pk for \$1.00
- 1 bath towel – Walmart \$1.97 ea.
- 1 drawstring bag – Make 2 from an old pillow case!

NEW UPDATE: Worship Team Notes

Worship services will be in the church sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. Communion will go back to the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month by stations. The service will still be broadcasted on the radio station FM 101.5 for those who wish to stay in their vehicles. We will continue to commune those worshipping remotely “in the parking lot” in their vehicles. Please note state and local guidelines are subject to change and we will continue to attempt to follow those for the health and safety of all. Guidelines and changes in those will be posted in the bulletin, on our website & FaceBook page. Please check these for changes and updates. Please Note: The service will NO longer be videoed & posted to the church website.



PRAYER REQUESTS: If you have a prayer request or wish to be on the prayer chain please contact Mary Wagner (361)275-9500 or Pastor John (361)243-0373. We ask that you would update the prayer request regularly. If we do not have an update, in an effort to keep our list current and up to date, we will presume the situation has improved and remove the request after 30 days. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Our Military and their families:

Jeff Zengerle - U.S. Army, Louisiana
Russell Copeland - U.S. Army Reserves
Jonathon Albrecht - U.S. Army, Kentucky
Chase Schroeder - U.S. Navy, Hawaii
Austin Schroeder - U.S. Navy, Virginia
Lee Magruder - U.S. Army, 2-4 CaB, Charlie Company, Black Hawk
Medevac Pilot, Fort Carson, Colorado
Katrina Moritz - U.S. Air Force
Michael Petrash II - 1st LT, United States Army
Andrew Washington, L CPL - USMC, Pensacola, FL
Jacob Redmond - USMC, San Diego, CA
Koltyn Mayhall - USMC, North Carolina



Please Pray for: Adam Womble
Hunter Jacob
Kenny Jacob
Cole Ohrt
Joy Hoy
Marie Liner
Bill Roeske
Britany Jank Tomas
Bea Fagg
Clint Coles
Mrs. Stiles
Ryon Preslar

Nursing Home:

Cuero Nursing & Rehab. ~ Marjorie Ideus



Keep up with St. John online
St. John Meyersville
<https://www.facebook.com/Stjohnmeyersville>
Or visit our website at: stjohnmeyersville.org

Advent 3

December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Questions arise from John and his followers about the true identity of Jesus. The Lord's response is one encouraging them to see, hear, and understand that he is the one sent by God. On this Third Sunday in Advent, we are reminded that God is always near. He hears our prayers and grants us the joy of his salvation. That precious gift comes to us most clearly in the person of Jesus who is "God with us."

