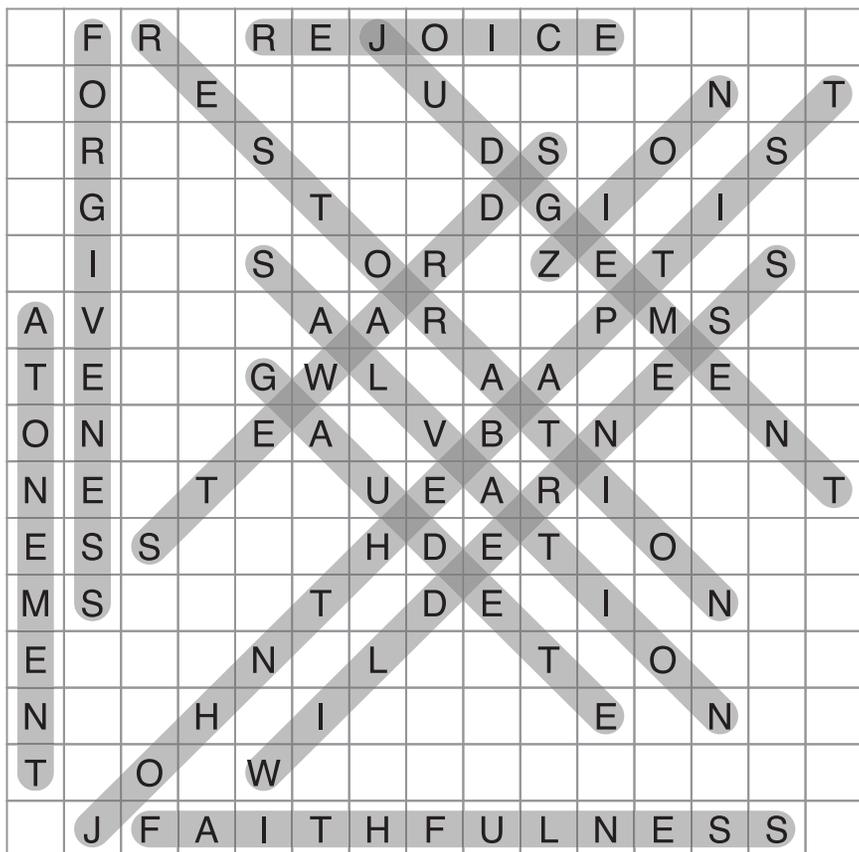


FRIDAY — ACTIVITY

Find the following words:

ATONEMENT • FAITHFULNESS • FORGIVENESS • GAUDETE  
 JOHN THE BAPTIST • JUDGEMENT • REJOICE • RESTORATION  
 SALVATION • STEWARDS • WILDERNESS • ZION



# Lambs at Pasture™



Gaudete – The Third Sunday in Advent

2017

**INTROIT**

*Psalm 85:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4–5*

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.**

**DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

An answer key is available for download at [www.stluth.org/lap](http://www.stluth.org/lap)

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Psalm 80:2b*

Alleluia. Stir up your might and come to save us. Alleluia.

**HYMN OF THE WEEK:** LSB #332 – Savior of the Nations, Come

**CATECHISM CONNECTION:**

The Second Article of the Creed with Explanation (pages 16–17)

**COLLECT OF THE WEEK**

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness or our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



[www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish](http://www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish)

## DID YOU KNOW?

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The word “advent” is derived from the Latin words, *advenire* (to come to) and *adventus* (an arrival). That we might be prepared to celebrate the blessed Feast of the Nativity of Christ our Lord, the Church has set aside the season of Advent as a time to reflect and meditate upon the coming of our Lord Jesus in the Flesh, through His Word and Sacraments, and on the Last Day. Advent is also a time of preparation for Christ’s coming through repentance and faith.

The Third Sunday in Advent is also known as *Gaudete*, which, in Latin, means: “Rejoice”. This is the opening word of the Introit – Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. (Philippians 4:4).

## MONDAY — THE PSALM

Read Psalm 85

What is the psalmist asking for throughout this psalm? (verses 1, 4, and 6)

Restoration, that is, the forgiveness of sins.

What is God’s steadfast love?

God’s love is shown forth in His goodness, His loving-kindness, His mercy.

Jesus brings forgiveness and healing to you in order to shield you with His mercy and draw you near to Him on the Last Day. His sacrifice on Calvary’s cross is the perfect offering for sin that you could never give.

Define folly. (verse 8)

Believing that there is no God and that man, or the imaginations of man (false gods), is the lord and master of all he can perceive or imagine.

## TUESDAY — THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Isaiah 40:1–8 (9–11)

What is Isaiah telling us in verses 6–8?

The Lord wants His people to realize that, because of sin, they are under the curse of death. We wither and die because of sin. And yet, because He had promised that He would send One whom would overcome the curse, there is hope. That hope is found only in Christ Jesus, the Word made Flesh, who died and yet lives and reigns to all eternity. Only God’s Word is everlasting and will not fade. Everything else will perish as you cannot take your earthly clothing and belongings into eternity.

## WEDNESDAY — THE GOSPEL

Read Matthew 11:2–10 (11)

Who was in prison? (verse 2)

John the Baptist

What did he ask his disciples to find out? Why did he do this? (verse 3)

John sent his disciples to ask Jesus if He is the promised Messiah. While John knew exactly who Jesus was, his disciples did not have the gift of prophetic vision and needed to be told. Luther described their need in this way: “How necessary it was for John to point his disciples away from himself and to Christ. For what benefit would it have been to them if they had depended a thousand times on John’s piety and had not embraced Christ? Without Christ there is no help or remedy, no matter how pious men may be.” (Luther, Martin. “The Third Sunday in Advent”. *The Complete Sermons of Martin Luther*, Vol. 1.1: Church Postils. Lenker, John, Nicholas, ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000. pg. 91, par. 7)

## THURSDAY — THE EPISTLE

Read 1 Corinthians 4:1–5

What are the mysteries of God? (verse 1)

“All that we confess in the Creed and learn in the Gospel and divine Scripture, namely, that Christ is the Son of God, was made Man, died, was buried, rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven, etc., and all for us. These are the great mysteries which the world neither knows nor believes, indeed, regards as a joke and folly, as Christ says in Matthew 11:25–27. And those who distribute and preach these mysteries are true apostles and stewards of Christ.” (Spangenburg. *The Christian Year of Grace*. pg. 25, question 9.)

What is verse 5 warning us of?

Do not pronounce judgment or condemnation on others. We do not know the intentions behind a person’s actions, only God knows a person’s heart. By judging and condemning others, we are placing judgment upon ourselves.

Review *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 243 (page 206) and question 277 (pages 227–228)

## CATECHISM CONNECTION

What is the connection of the Second Article of the Creed with Explanation and *Gaudete*?

It is through Jesus that our sins are atoned and forgiven.