

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The King Shall Come to Bring Us Joy

December 15 & 16, 2018

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

“Rejoice in the Lord always!” may seem like quite the daunting task in today’s world. Yes, there are moments of joy, but there are also moments of tragedy and devastation. It is not possible to be always joyful. But rejoicing is not a task that we have to add to our to-do list. And we are not called to rejoice in everything always. We are called to rejoice in the Lord always. The God who rejoices over us with gladness and calms us with His love brings us into a relationship with Him that is filled with rejoicing at His presence and providence.

WELCOME

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”

Isaiah 60:1,3

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #737 “Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing”

Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing, A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of ev’rything, Your portion shall remain.

He is your treasure, He your joy, Your life and light and Lord,
Your counselor when doubts annoy, Your shield and great reward.

Why spend the day in blank despair, In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care; He makes your burdens light.

Did not His love and truth and pow’r Guard ev’ry childhood day?
And did He not in threat’ning hour Turn dreaded ills away?

He only will with patience chide, His rod falls gently down;
and all your sins He casts aside In ocean depths to drown.

His wisdom never plans in vain Nor falters nor mistakes.
All that His counsels may ordain A blesses ending makes.

Upon your lips, then, lay your hand, And trust His guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand Here and in Heav’n above.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord always!

People: For He will rejoice over us with gladness.

Pastor: Again, I say, rejoice!

People: He will quiet us with His love.

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet.

People: Righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Pastor: In Christ, the blind receive their sight, the lame walk,

People: the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear.

Pastor: In Christ, the dead are raised up,

People: and the poor have the good news preached to them.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week.
We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy,
and love. Jesus Christ is the hope of the nations.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we hope.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rest.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the source of all joy.

People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word do we rejoice.

HYMN

“The King Shall Come to Bring Us Joy”

The King shall come to bring us joy, To silence all our hate.
He comes in power to destroy Both sin and Satan’s weight.

We light this candle and rejoice That God has sent His Son!

We pray and praise and raise our voice With thanks for all He’s done.

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CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. While today is a celebration of joy, we know that on our own, we would be entirely devoid of joy. Without Christ's intervention and incarnation, we would be lost in torment forever. We approach God in reverence, mindful of how unworthy we are to be in God's presence.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have doubted your Son and His power. We have been filled with anxiety and stress. Revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you.

Pastor: The Lord God is in your midst, the mighty One who will save. In Christ's death and resurrection, God withdrew His wrath and put away His burning anger. He rejoices over you with singing and quiets your anxious hearts by His love. Hear these words of forgiveness, for they are from Christ Himself: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. "You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin."

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Christ, and come, that in your presence we may rejoice and rest in the peace that only you can give, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zephaniah 3:14-20* (The Lord will rejoice over you with gladness.) Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The 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. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The 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. I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. Behold, 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. At 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philippians 4:4-7* (Rejoice in the Lord always.) Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

8:00 CHOIR ANTHEM "*Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People*" Howard Helvey

(Rise)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 7:18-35* ("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.") The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, calling 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?" And 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?'" In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. And 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. And blessed is the

one who is not offended by me.” When 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? What 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. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ I 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.” (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They 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.’ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ The 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!’ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #341 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

Pastor's Message

“Rejoice Always”

Philippians 4:4-7

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

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.
(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

God, our Father, your Son bids us to pray with confidence. Give us your Spirit to see you in the person of your Son, knowing that He and is the only One who came to bear our sins and be our Savior. Encourage us in true faith and fill us with joy, knowing He will come again to make all things new. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father in heaven, send laborers into the harvest — pastors, missionaries, teachers and other servants of the Word — to declare your Law and proclaim your saving Gospel in Christ Jesus, that your name may be hallowed. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father in heaven, you graciously rule your people even as your strong arm keeps evil at bay through right governance in this world. Bless and guide all who are in authority to rule justly. Bless and protect the men and women of our armed services, especially those who must be far away from family in these holy days. And give your Spirit to your people, that we may believe your Word and live holy lives. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Wise Father, your will is done without our prayer. Turn our hearts to you, so that we trust your wise counsel in all things and trust your good and gracious providence in our daily lives. Open our hearts to your promises, that we may know your will and receive your gifts in the Gospel and the Sacraments in true faith. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, we rejoice with the extending of your kingdom to others. We rejoice especially this weekend as Selena Stone is baptized into Christ. Bless parent, grandparents, and Godparents to help her grow up in the faith, and bless her throughout her earthly life to walk closely with Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Kind Father, your Son gave bread to the hungry, sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf and ministered to the infirm; He raised the dead and preached Good News to the poor. Help again the hungry, the poor and unemployed, the sick, the dying, the grieving and all who are anxious of heart especially Nancy, Don, Barbara, Larry, Marge, Dolores, Bob, Herb, Cliff, Cindy, LuEva, Dick, Nancy, Shirley, Gladys, Russ, Arlene, John, Jack, Arlene, Shirley, Jonathan, Leonard and Sarah. Graciously give them all that they need for their well-being, quiet their fears with your love, and give them ears to hear and hearts to believe the Good News. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, forgive us our sins and cleanse us from unrighteousness. Soften the hearts of those who reject your Word, and renew those whose faith is faltering. Open our ears to your call of repentance and to your promise of mercy. Grant us to come to your table in true faith to receive Christ's body and blood and the forgiveness He promises. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father in heaven, guard us from Satan and all his wickedness and lies. Give us eyes to see evil and flee from it to your Son, who restores those who have fallen. In our last hour, bring us to yourself in peace and safety. Grant that in this day and the coming week, your Spirit would guide us in safety and godliness. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

HYMN

"O Lamb of God, You Take Away"

O Lamb of God, You take away Each sin that leads our hearts astray.
Have mercy on us, great High Priest, And lead us to Your endless feast.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Your joy is here, O Israel.

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(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #338 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

HYMN #636 "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendor, There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Hasten as a bride to meet Him, And with loving rev'rence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before Him, Saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, That I nevermore will leave You.

He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered, None could buy the gifts here
offered: Christ's true body, for you riven, And His blood, for you once given.

Now in faith I humbly ponder Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless Though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation, pledge and seal of my salvation!

Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding, Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You; Love incarnate, I adore You
Worthily let me receive You And, so forward, never leave You.

Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven, For our good, Your glory, given.

9 continued

Lord, by love and mercy driven, You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited, Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

HYMN #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King.
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast-Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword:
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas'chal victim, paschal bread; with
sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith as we wait for the day of His coming, that we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN #849 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Praise the One who breaks the darkness With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees' the pris'ners, Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel, Healing ev'rydread disease, Calming storms, and feeding thousands With the very Bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water, Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

Let us praise the Word Incarnate, Christ, who suffered in our place. Jesus died and rose victorious That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, Seeing what our God has done; Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist
Choir Director

Pastor Noah Kegley
Pastor Harold Bender
Jodi Drew, Laurel Privatt
Emma Harper, Ashton Poritz
Michelle Prince
Nancy Hoelke

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Special Christmas Worship Times

December 19 at 10:00am & 6:00pm
Advent Dinner at 4:45pm (Chili)

December 22 at 5:00pm (Holy Communion)

December 23 at 9:00am (Holy Communion)

December 24 at 4:00, 6:00

December 24 at 11:00pm (Holy Communion)

December 25 at 9:00am (Holy Communion)