

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Rejoicing Always
December 13, 2020



AS WE GATHER: In our Advent preparations today, John the apostle and evangelist adds his testimony along with John the Baptist, holding before us the joy of Jesus as the light who gives to all who receive Him and believe in His name the right to become children of God. Because of our Lord's continual supply

of grace by His Word and Sacraments, we are enabled with Him to "greatly rejoice in the LORD"; for by His Spirit of righteousness we lead lives of holiness of faith. This holiness continually rejoices in the Lord, prays, and give thanks in all circumstances. With John the apostle and John the Baptist, we rejoice, always prepared by faith to welcome and worship our Lord and Savior, who comes to us daily with healing and deliverance.

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

- 1 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.

- 2 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.

Public domain

✠ PREPARATION ✠

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness

People: **and illumine Your Church.**

Pastor: The 3rd Candle lit is known as The Candle of Joy --
This Candle remembers the multitudes of angels that joyfully announced the birth of Christ.

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #357 v. 1-3

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.

People: Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves. Make us truly repentant, that we may receive the holiness of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.

Pastor: The true light has come. To all who receive Him, He makes to be the children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩

INTROIT *Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7*

Pastor: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. 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. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.

People: **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: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.

KYRIE

People: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, true Light of the world, abide with us that we may rejoice in Your gracious presence, pray to You in every need, and give thanks for all Your blessing; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11* (The year of the Lord's favor)

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of

mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 5:16–24* (Rejoice always)

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil. ²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 1:6–8, 19–28* (The testimony of John the Baptist)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.” ²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment”
#511v.1, 2

- 1 Herald, sound the note of judgment,
 Warning us of right and wrong,
 Turning us from sin and sadness
 Till once more we sing the song.
- ref Sound the trumpet!
 Tell the message:
 Christ, the Savior king, is come!
- 2 Herald, sound the note of gladness;
 Tell the news that Christ is here;
 Make a pathway through the desert
 For the one who brings God near. Refrain

SERMON Christmas Is Only About Jesus - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

HYMN “Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment” #511 v.3, 4

3 Herald, sound the note of pardon—
Those repenting are forgiv'n;
God receives His wayward children,
And to them new life is giv'n. Refrain

4 Herald, sound the note of triumph;
Christ has come to share our life,
Bringing God's own love and power,
Granting vict'ry in our strife. Refrain

© 1977 Moir A. J. Waters. Used by permission: CCAI, no. 660171.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(After each petition the pastor prays, *let us pray to the Lord*, and the people respond, ***Lord, have mercy.***)

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Pastor: In His great love for us, God gave His only Son to save us from sin and death. The God of grace come to us in His Word, through our Baptism, and in His Holy Supper to assure us of His grace, to strengthen us in our faith, and to make us partakers of the forgiveness and life we have in Christ. The God of peace will sanctify you wholly and keep your spirit, soul and body sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

People: **Come, risen Lord, live in us that we may live in You.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not Perish but have eternal life.

You sent Your Word into the world that all may see Your grace and truth in the flesh of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. We rejoice to give You thanks that

You abide with us in His true presence by giving us to eat and to drink of His very body and blood in this Sacrament.

Grant that we receive Him now in joy and reflect the light of His grace to our world today in lives of holy living.

People: **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–

24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in Remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Revelation 22:20

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “On What Has Now Been Sown” #921

1 On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow’r is Thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

2 To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our pow’rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.

3 O grant that each of us,
Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav’n, our home.
E’en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2020
Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

nada