

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

Divine Service, Setting Three

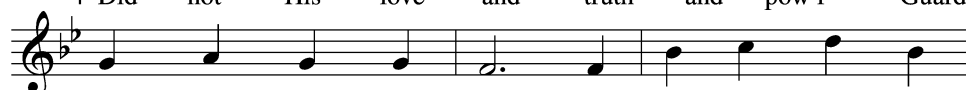
As We Gather

Some Advent wreaths have a pink candle for this Third Sunday in Advent. The festive, joyful pink candle reflects today's Readings, which begin to anticipate the unbridled joy that Jesus' birth brings. We do many joyful things during Advent. We sing Christmas carols, bake cookies, decorate our homes inside and out, and travel far and wide to visit those we love. Yet all these joyful things point to an even greater joy—the joy that comes by the Creator of the universe, the Lord almighty, who loves you, forgives you in Jesus, and cares about you beyond human measure! "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!"

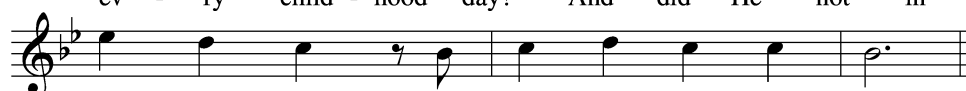
737 Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing



1 Re - joice, my heart, be glad and sing, A
2 He is your trea - sure, He your joy, Your
3 Why spend the day in blank de - spair, In
4 Did not His love and truth and pow'r Guard



cheer - ful trust main - tain; For God, the source of
life and light and Lord, Your coun - sel - or when
rest - less thought the night? On your Cre - a - tor in
ev - 'ry child - hood day? And did He not in



ev - 'ry - thing, Your por - tion shall re - main.
doubts an - noy, Your shield and great re - ward.
cast your care; He makes your bur - dens light.
threat - 'ning hour Turn dread - ed ills a - way?

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

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

7 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.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 146:5–8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

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

C **Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*
whose hope is in the | LORD his God,**

P who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is | in them,*
who keeps faith for- | ever;

C **who executes justice for | the oppressed,*
who gives food to the | hungry.**

P The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the | righteous.

C **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;**

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | **Amen.**

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

Kyrie

LSB 186

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

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.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14–20

P The Old Testament Reading is from Zephaniah, chapter 3.

¹⁴Sing 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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 4:4–7

P The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter 4.

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 7:18–28

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

P 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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C 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.

Sit

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

4

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is
2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the
3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the
near,” we hear it say. “Cast a - way the
earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -
works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!”
sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Grace Enough to Cover Your Doubts

Offering

Stand

Offertory

C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

LSB 192

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** Heavenly Father, You rescue the daughter of Zion from her enemies and take away the judgments against her. Look with compassion upon Your people wherever they suffer for the name of Jesus. Give them wisdom when they are pressured to compromise, provide when they suffer loss, give courage when they are afraid, and strengthen them in the midst of persecution until You deliver them. Preserve them always in the joyful hope that You will restore all that is lost with what cannot be taken away. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Almighty God, as You once sent messengers before the face of Jesus to prepare His way, so strengthen and encourage all pastors and church workers as they make known His saving name. Open the ears of all who hear to rejoice, repent and firmly believe. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Giver of all good gifts, look upon the households of Your people. Provide companionship for those who are alone, strengthen the bonds of marriage and equip parents to raise their children in love and faith. Grant that our homes may be places of joy, reasonableness, peace and prayer. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lord, You set the prisoners free. Remember those who are incarcerated justly, and grant that they might repent, be freed from the clutches of sin, accept the consequences of their wrongdoing, and learn to live honestly and peacefully. Remember all those who are imprisoned unjustly. Restore their freedom according to Your will, and preserve them in Your grace and the confidence that You know what is true and just. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, Your Son became flesh and healed the sick of all kinds of diseases and afflictions, demonstrating His power and giving us a foretaste of the resurrection on the Last Day. Have mercy upon all those in need of deliverance [*especially* _____]. Heal them in Your time and according to Your will, and preserve them in the confidence that You will deliver Your people from all afflictions at the resurrection of all flesh. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

- C** **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 Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

349 Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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Announcements

Adult Sunday School is studying Genesis at 9am on Sunday mornings.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesday at 10am. They are studying the Book of Numbers.

Church Council next meeting is **Dec 12** at 8am. After service will also be the **Voters' Meeting**.

Midweek Advent Services: Wednesday **Dec 15th** with a light meal at **6:30pm**, and service at **7pm**.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Dec 24th at 7pm

Christmas Day Divine Service: Dec 25th at 10am

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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