

2020 Advent Midweek Three

Dec. 16, 2020

THE CHILD WHO IS JOHN'S JOY

AS WE GATHER

The palpable joy of God's people as they recognize His blessings pervades Scripture. David couldn't contain himself when the ark of the covenant came into the city. Unborn John the Baptist jumped for joy inside his mother, Elizabeth, when Mary arrived, bearing Jesus. And Paul encourages us to "rejoice in the Lord always." In each case, they rejoiced as they saw God's plans coming to fruition. Because Advent is a time of preparation, we do not always let joy pervade our worship. But the third Sunday and its week are "lighter." They help us to join the saints of long ago in singing the praises of God, who comes to us to dispel our doubts, meet our deepest needs, and clear away the darkness of whatever has burdened us.

+ PREPARATION +

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau-ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

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Choir or cantor:

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?

Congregation:

**This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!**

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

C **I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

P May my meditation be pleasing to Him,

C **for I rejoice in the Lord.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P When Mary, bearing Jesus inside her, approached Elizabeth, her son, who would become John the Baptist, jumped for joy inside her. Let us confess to God and one another that we have not always fully appreciated the joy He brings to each of us.

Worshippers face each other across the center aisle.

Left side: I confess to God Almighty and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have allowed the cares and worries of this world to dampen my spirit and mute my joy. I have given the expectations of others more weight than my desire to thank our heavenly Father for all His blessings. I have rejoiced in times of elation but failed to thank our Lord for the gift of each new day. And I have forgotten to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, seldom jumping for joy over the abiding presence of God in my life.

Right side: May God's forgiving grace become a part of your daily awareness so that you may rejoice in your thinking, speaking, and acting.

Right side: *I confess to God Almighty and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have allowed the cares and worries of this world to dampen my spirit and mute my joy. I have given the expectations of others more weight than my desire to thank our heavenly Father for all His blessings. I have rejoiced in times of elation but failed to thank our Lord for the gift of each new day. And I have forgotten to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, seldom jumping for joy over the abiding presence of God in my life.*

Left side: **May God’s forgiving grace become a part of your daily awareness so that you may rejoice in your thinking, speaking, and acting.**

P Rejoice in the Lord always! The baby in whose presence John jumped for joy is your Savior from every failing of yours and from sin itself. That you may rejoice now and always, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen. Let it be as you have said. Amen!**

343 Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

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+ WORD +

- P O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
In wisdom have You made them all;
the earth is full of Your creatures.
- A Here is the sea, great and wide,
which teems with creatures innumerable,
living things both small and great.
- C **May my meditation be pleasing to Him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.**
- P There go the ships,
and Leviathan, which You formed to play in it.
- A These all look to You,
to give them their food in due season.
- C **May my meditation be pleasing to Him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.**
- P When You give it to them, they gather it up;
when You open Your hand, they are filled with good things.
- A When You hide Your face, they are dismayed;
when You take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.
- C **May my meditation be pleasing to Him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.**
- P When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created,
and You renew the face of the ground.
- A May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in His works,
- C **May my meditation be pleasing to Him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.**
- P who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke!
- A I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
- C **May my meditation be pleasing to Him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.**

FIRST READING *2 Samuel 6:12–23*

- L The First Reading is from the sixth chapter of Second Samuel.
- L And it was told King David, “The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. And David danced before the LORD with all his might.

C **And David danced before the LORD with all his might!**

- L And David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn.

As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart. And they brought in the ark of the LORD and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house.

And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, “How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants’ female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!” And David said to Michal, “It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the LORD—and I will celebrate before the LORD. I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in your eyes. But by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor.” And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING *Philippians 4:4–9*

- L The Second Reading is from the fourth chapter of Philippians.
- L Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

C Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

L 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.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING *Luke 1:39–45*

L The Third Reading is from the first chapter of Luke.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb.

C The baby leaped in her womb!

L And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain
Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

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SERMON “The Child Who Is John’s Joy”

- P After hearing about John’s joy, Mary expressed her own in the words of the Magnificat.

MAGNIFICAT The Song of Mary, Luke 1:46–55 (LSB 933)

933 My Soul Rejoices



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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SALUTATION

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Lord Jesus, once a child laid to rest on Mary's lap,

- C **grant us such faith that we may entrust all things into Your care, finding peace in our hearts and sleep at the end of the day.**
- P Lord Jesus, whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
- C **grant us daily opportunities to sing Your praises in word and deed, reminding friends and neighbors of Your blessings, too many to number.**
- P Lord Jesus, Christ the King,
- C **grant wisdom and guidance to those in power among the nations of the world, that they govern in justice and compassion, hastening to bring You laud and honor.**
- P Lord Jesus, who endured nails and piercing spear, bearing the cross for us,
- C **grant confident hope in Your all-availing sacrifice for us and all who trust in the Word made flesh.**
- P Lord Jesus, whose coming salvation brings,
- C **grant us loving hearts to enthrone You, raising the song on high, rejoicing in Your birth, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**
- P Hear us as we pray in Your name and as You have taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

- 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.**

PRAYER FROM SUNDAY

- P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers
- C **and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation;**
- P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR TODAY

- P Let us pray. Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary,
C **be part of our living each day; bring joy to our minds, smiles to our speaking, and rejoicing through our actions;**
P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR PEACE

- P Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,
C **give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**
P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P May God Almighty—the Father, who kept all His ancient promises; the Son, who entered human history as one of us to save us from our sins; and the Holy Spirit, who has worked faith in our hearts that we may celebrate the birth of the Babe, the Son of Mary—bless you and keep you, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

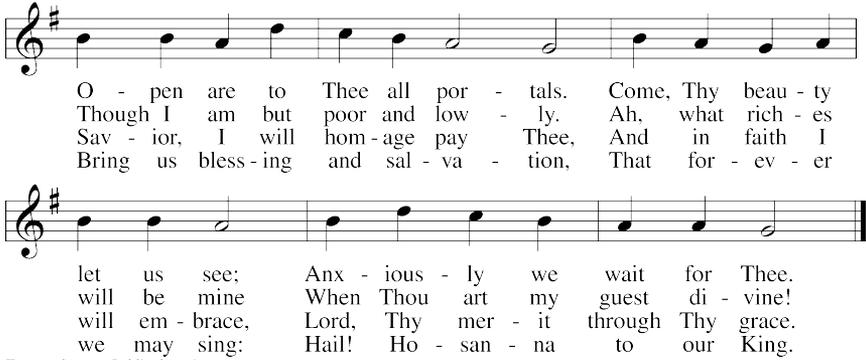
350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scept - er, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
 Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
 Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
 Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er
 let us see: Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
 will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
 will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
 we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

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DISMISSAL

- P The Almighty and Merciful Lord, Father, † Son and Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C **Amen, Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

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Rev. David J. Lindenberg

Please Join Us for Sunday Worship 9:30 am
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7pm
Christmas Day Worship 9:30am