



Third Sunday *of* Advent

Joy

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Broadcast Sunday mornings, 8:00-8:30, on KAPS Radio (660 am)

You are created uniquely by God and you are welcome here.

Your Abilities· Age· Culture· Economic Status· Gender Expression/Identity· Life Circumstances· Marital Status·
Questions· Race· Sexual Orientation· are welcome here

December 13

GATHERING

PRELUDE “In the Bleak Midwinter,” by Gustav Holst, David Jones on cello, Pete Olson on piano

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM:

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

C: Amen.

L: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us
give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**C: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your
Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of
the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from
slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy
Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your
promise and servants of all.**

L: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new
life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace,
and love.

C: All: To you be given honor and praise through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Christ, Be Our Light, ELW 715 (Bulletin Pg. 6, vs. 1-4)

ADVENT LITANY

L On the first Sunday of Advent we lit a candle for hope. Our second candle was lit for Peace. Today we light a candle for Joy. This is the Joy we search for:

C: the Joy that comes when we go out of our way to help others, the Joy that overcomes fear and repression, the Joy that Jesus brought to the downtrodden and despised.

L the Joy that chuckles out from a young baby, the Joy that is in the energy of children at play, the Joy that comes with a new job and is found in a purposeful retirement.

C: the Joy of compassionate friendship, the Joy of a faith that is central to all we do and are,

L A Joy to release us,

C: A Joy to delight us,

L: A Joy to encourage us,

C: A Joy to challenge the despair in our hearts, in our communities and among the hopeless of our world. Amen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN “*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*” Vs. 1,2, &3



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

Prayer of the Day:

Leader: Let us pray: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, ...

All: Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

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 wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

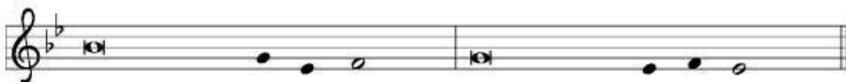
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being 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 with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Psalm: Psalm 126



**¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.**

**²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great | things for them.”**

**³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.**

**⁴Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who | sowed with tears will reap with | songs of joy.

**⁶Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

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 the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for 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.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of the Day: *Prepare the Royal Highway*, ELW 264 (Bulletin Pg. 7, vs. 1,2,4)

Creed:

L: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

All: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

(Ephesians 1:13-14)

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

L: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

All: pray in the Holy Spirit. (*Jude 20*)

L: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

All: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Jude 21*)

L: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

All: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!
(*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

HOLY MEAL

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer:

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers of Intercession: Each petition will end with, "Lord in your Mercy", and the response will be: "**Hear our Prayer.**"

Blessing:

L: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, + now and forever.

SENDING

Hymn: "*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*" ELW 815 (Bulletin Pg. 8)

Dismissal:

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude "Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song),"

by Amy Grant and Chris Eaton, arranged by Carol Tornquist

Christ, Be Our Light

715



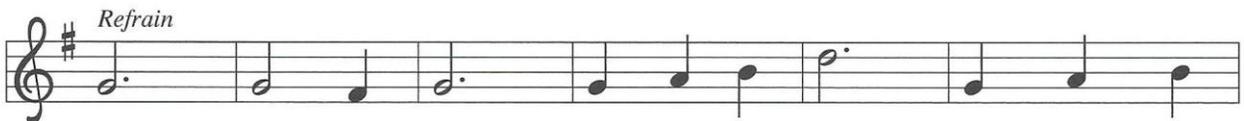
1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



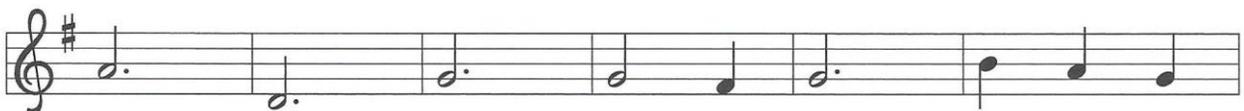
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

264

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 may 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 will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 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!

815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the