

Sunday December 13th



3rd Sunday in Advent



CONCORDIA

Lutheran Church
Preschool & University Ministry

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Here is the link to the live stream

<https://youtu.be/bDuEDHALtSw>

REJOICING ALWAYS

AS WE GATHER

We hear John the Baptist coming to prepare the way for the Lord, whose earthly birth we are preparing to celebrate and whose coming again on the Last Day is the promise of resurrection and eternal life for all who believe. Between our coming to faith and His coming again, we are called to lives of faith that continue to rejoice, to pray, and to give thanks in every circumstance. We can do that because we have come to the light of our salvation and hope of eternal life. Now certainly it's easier to rejoice, pray, and give thanks when things are going well. It's another thing when we suffer illness or persecution, the reverses, challenges, and disappointments of life. Nevertheless, the Spirit of Christ seeks to enable us to do just that—to rejoice always, to pray always, and to give thanks to God always in all circumstances. This is holy living, constantly keeping the eyes of faith on the sure and certain Word and promises of God for His people, the God who blesses, keeps, comforts, and strengthens us every day. We rejoice with the psalmist, saying, "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

JESUS, YOUR CHURCH WITH LONGING EYES



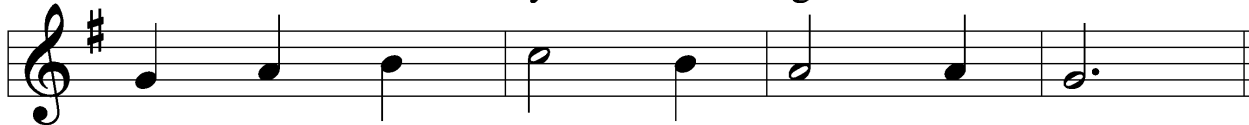
1 Je - sus, Your Church with long - ing eyes
2 E'en now, when tem - pests round us fall
3 Come, gra - cious Lord, our hearts re - new,
4 Oh, come and reign o'er ev - 'ry land;
5 Teach us in watch - ful - ness and prayer



For Your ex - spect - ed com - ing waits.
And win - try clouds o'er - cast the sky,
Our sins for - give, our foes sup - press,
Let Sa - tan from his throne be hurled.
To wait for Your ap - point - ed hour,



When will the prom - ised light a - rise
Your words with plea - sure we re - call
Our root - ed en - mi - ty sub - due,
Let na - tions bow to Your com - mand;
And fit us by Your grace to share



And glo - ry beam from heav - en's gates?
And know that our re - demp - tion's nigh.
And crown Your Gos - pel with suc - cess.
Let grace re - vive a dy - ing world.
The tri - umphs of Your con - qu'ring pow'r.

+ PREPARATION +

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.
- C** **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.**
- P** 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.
- C** Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

- P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C the light no darkness can overcome.
P Let Your light scatter the darkness
C and illumine Your Church.

WE LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE

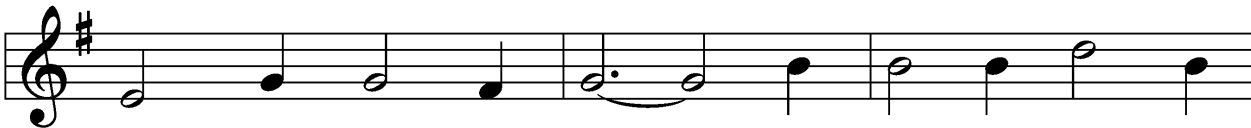
sts. 1–3



1 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And wait for Christ to
2 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And thank the Lord for
3 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And sing with cheer - ful



come. With hope, we trust the prom - ise That
rest. With peace, we know our Je - sus Has
heart. With joy, we spread the mes - sage— A



He will bring us home. Our hope is in our
come to be our guest. This peace be - yond all
bless - ing to im - part. Our joy is nev - er



Sav - ior Who wins for us God's fa - vor. We
 know - ing With - in our hearts is glow - ing. We
 end - ing; The Son to us is send - ing. We



wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!
 wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!
 wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!

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+ WORD +

INTROIT

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
 Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
 Behold, your king is coming to you;
 righteous and having salvation.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 From the house of the Lord we bless you.

SALUTATION

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
- C** 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. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

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 brokenhearted,
 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 126; antiphon: v. 5

P When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

C Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

P The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

C Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!

P Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

C He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

Matthew 11:10b

Alleluia. Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.
Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6–8, 19–28

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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. . . .

¹⁹This 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

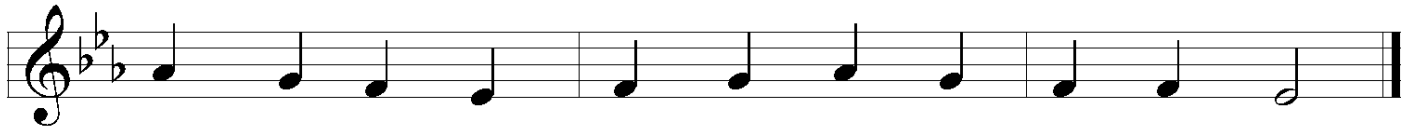
345 HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING



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!

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SERMON

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

For the Holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God guard and defend us from all temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For [name], our Synod President, [name], our District President, for all pastors and servants of Christ, that they proclaim with faithfulness and clarity the true light of the Gospel in all they do, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of all people, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who are sick, [*especially* . . .], that God grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

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.

OFFERING

BENEDICTION

P 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.

C **Amen.**

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

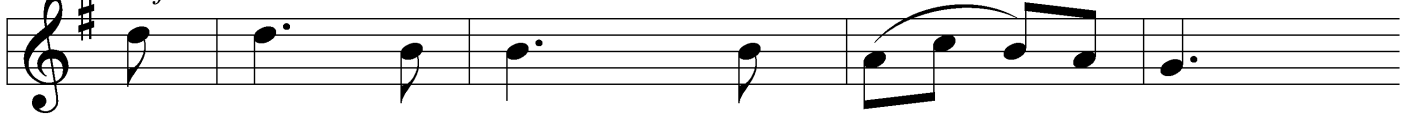


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



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 - joice! Re - joice! 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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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Prayers

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

Prayers of thanks for **Josie Peterson** who celebrated her birthday recently and for **Catherine Walker, Emmett Heiden, Felicity & Nickolette Graham, Owen Greig, and Chad Whetzel** who is celebrating their birthdays this week.

Thanksgiving for **Zach & Jessica Heiden** as they celebrate their wedding anniversary this week.

Prayers of Comfort and Healing

For all who suffer from **anxiety and depression**.

Prayers for comfort and understanding for **all those who are battling cancer**.

Healing for all those who have Covid, especially LeeAnn's niece Theresa who was hospitalized but is now improved enough to return home, and for Gene, the Uncle of Jessica, he is in a Spokane Hospital and is not doing well.

Healing for **Nancy Larson-Powers** as she recovers from her blood clot and operation

Other Prayers

Safety for **all who are traveling**.

All who serve in our **armed forces** and their **families**.

*Can we pray for you? Share your prayer requests by email at office@concordiapullman.org
or fill out one of the white cards in the pews and place it in the offering plate.*