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GOD FULFILLS HIS PROMISES

AS WE GATHER

The original title of the Christmas carol "In dulci jubilo" (*LSB* 386, "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice") was interpreted by the famous French organist and composer Marcel Dupre as "In Quiet Joy." Another familiar hymn tells of the birth of the Savior in the words "How silently the wondrous gift is given!" (*LSB* 361:3). Though there were moments of rage and loud opposition through His earthly ministry, many of our Lord's activities happened in the quiet and stillness of His presence. Indeed, even as He accomplished His goal, He entered Jerusalem in quiet humility, suffered obediently, closed His eyes and breathed His last in death, and finally was laid in the stone-cold silence of a tomb. There are times for loud praise and rejoicing, but this night let us gather in quiet joy contemplating the mystery that, in this little babe in the little town of Bethlehem of Judea, fulfilled God's ancient promise of redemption and peace for all who would be drawn in the silence of the Spirit of God through His Word and blessed Sacraments.

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING SENTENCES

Habakkuk 2:20

- P In dulci jubilo! In quiet joy! In quiet joy, we gather this evening, this very special night.
- **G** The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
- P We gather from our busy lives, our hurried routines, the loud noises of life,
- C in quiet joy.

P We bring our wearied bodies, our troubled hearts, our restless souls in hope,

- C in quiet joy.
- **P** God is here, the LORD is in His holy temple;
- **C** let all the earth keep silence before Him.





"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king." A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing, is the hour, Come swift - ly on Look up, for gold - en the wing, His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom-ise bring, The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing. And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing. The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing. And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing. Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-76, alt. Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900 Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

- In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the silence of this moment, let us prepare ourselves, and confess our sin to God.

Silence for reflection.

- P Holy and gracious God,
- I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

Silence for reflection.

- In the silence of this night, by the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and in quiet joy.
- C Amen.

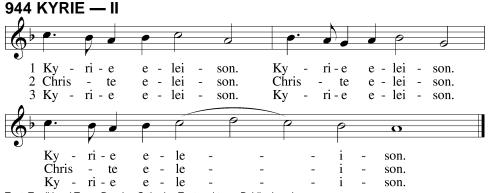
379 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

sts. 1, ref, 2-4

sts. 1-3



+ WORD +



Text: Traditional Tune: Russian Orthodox Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

• O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 9:2–7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they reioice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor. you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end. on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

+ PSALM 96 - HANOVER TUNE +

O sing to the Lord, a new song now sing. O sing to the Lord, all earth Your praise bring. O sing to the Lord and give praise to His name, And day after day His salvation proclaim.

Among nations all His glory declare, His marvelous deeds to folk everywhere. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods always.

For all of the gods of nations are vain, The Lord made the heav'ns, and o'er them does reign. Before Him are splendor and great majesty, Strength, glory are there in His sanc-tu-ar-y.

Ascribe to the Lord, O fam'lies of earth, Ascribe to the Lord strength, glory, and worth. Ascribe to the Lord glory due to His name; Bring off'rings and come to His courts; praise proclaim.

O worship the Lord in splendor of all His holiness; come and tremble in awe. Say unto the nations, "The Lord alone reigns!" The world is established; it firmly remains.

He will judge the peoples with equity, Let heavens rejoice; let earth joyful be. Let seas all resound and all that is in them; Let fields all be joyous, with all things in them.

Then all of the trees will sing forth with joy. They'll sing to the Lord; all praise they'll employ, Because He is coming, the earth's judge to be— He'll judge earth, all peoples, with true equity.

EPISTLE

Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

VERSE

P Alleluia.

C Alleluia.

 ${f P}$ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Alleluia.

C Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

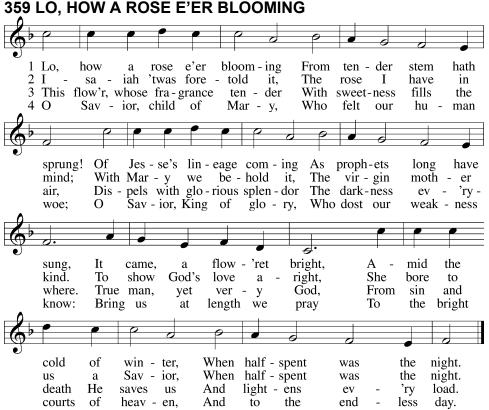
¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to You, O Christ.

Luke 2:11

Luke 2:1–14



Text (sts. 1–2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt.; (sts. 1–2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808–59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876–1948 Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

NICENE CREED

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- Almighty and ever-living God, hear our prayer from the silence of our hearts and from Your Holy Church. Inspire all those who confess Your holy name with the Spirit of truth, unity, and concord. Grant that they agree in the truth of Your holy Word and live in unity and godly love. Lord, in Your mercy,
- hear our prayer.
- Save and defend our country, heavenly Father. Grant to all in authority wisdom and strength to know and do Your will. Direct the hearts of all rulers that they rightly administer justice to all. Give grace to all pastors and servants of Your Church that they by both their life and doctrine proclaim Your true and lively Word and rightly administer Your holy Sacraments. Give to all Your people Your heavenly grace that in quiet joy and with due reverence they hear and receive Your holy Word, truly serving You in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- We implore You, O Lord, mercifully to consider this congregation begging You especially to comfort and help all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any adversity. Defend them from every evil to body and soul. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.
- Heavenly Father, we give You high praise and thanks for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all Your saints from the beginning of the world. We commend to Your mercy also, O Lord, all Your servants who have departed with the sign of faith and now rest in the sleep of peace. Grant that on the day of the resurrection of all flesh, we and all Your servants of the mystical Body of Your Son be set together on His right hand and hear His most joyful voice

saying, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Lord, in Your mercy,

- C hear our prayer.
- Grant this, O Father, for the sake of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Mediator, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

OFFERING

+ SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

- P The Lord be with you.
- And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

OH, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD 1 Oh. ho - ly, Lord. The God ho - ly, is the bv 2 How blest is He. the com - ing One. Lord Je sus heav'n and earth a - dored. We join the an - gels Christ, God's on - lv Son. Ho - san - na with ga song, Their glo-rious prais - es pro - long. in their to lac - tic space, Sing we, saved on - ly bv His grace.

Text: James Pierce Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois Text: © 2019 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11135304 Tune: Public domain

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P 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."

PAX DOMINI

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



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O LAMB OF GOD, THE ONLY SON

+ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS +

370 WHAT CHILD IS THIS

376 ONCE IN ROYAL DAVIDS CITY

361 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

357 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

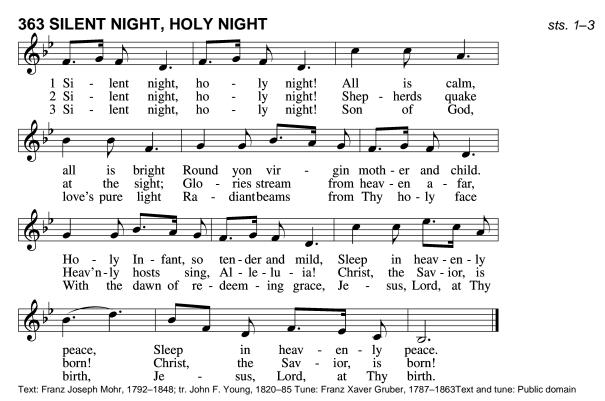
POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

In quiet joy, O God, how silently the wondrous gift is given: the gift of Your Son at Christmas in His mother's lap and the gift of Your Son now in us as members of His own Body. With sins forgiven, grant us a quiet night now and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Candle lighting)



BENEDICTION

- C Amen.

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