

# *Third Sunday of Advent*

*Video Eucharist*

*December 12-13, 2020*

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Manistee, Michigan*

*“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.*

## **GATHERING**

### **GATHERING HYMN**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” *ELW 490*

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descending  
comes full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way;  
as the Light of light, descending  
from the realms of endless day,  
comes, the pow'rs of hell to vanquish,  
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph,  
cherubim with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence,  
as with ceaseless voice they cry:  
“Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

### HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Glory to God . . .

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: Have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: Receive our prayer. Glory to God . . .

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen, amen. Glory to God . . .

### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, 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.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING

*Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11*

A reading from Isaiah.

The 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; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to 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. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For 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. Their 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. I 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. For 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*Psalm 126*

When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.  
Then 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."  
The LORD has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.  
Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.  
Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.  
Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.  
Glory to the Father, and | to the Son,  
and to the | Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will | be forever.  
A | - - men.

## SECOND READING

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

A reading from First Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May 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. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL

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

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HOMILY

*The Rev. Fr. Jody Bambas*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” *ELW 249*

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
announces that the Lord is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
make straight the way for God within,  
and let us all our hearts prepare  
for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and make us rise to fall no more;  
oh, let your face upon us shine  
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

## NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*Each petition ends with:*

Hear us, O God;  
**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY SONG      “A King Like This” – *Chris Tomlin, Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman, 2015*

A King like this  
Majesty laying in a manger  
A King like this  
Unto us is born a Savior  
The Light the Light has come

A King like this  
The highest name and the song of heaven  
A King like this  
Born of flesh into our suffering  
The Light the Light has come

He is Christ the Lord  
He is Christ our Savior  
I bow my heart before no other name  
I bow my heart before no other King

A King like this  
A saving love that would not forsake us  
Betrayed by a kiss  
And led to the cross for our forgiveness  
The Light the Light has come

We lift up our eyes the Light has come  
We lift up our eyes the Light has come  
We lift up our eyes the Light has come  
We lift up our eyes lift up our eyes  
Lift up your eyes

He is Christ the Lord  
He is Christ our Savior  
He is Christ the Lord  
He is Christ our Savior  
I bow my heart before no other name

I bow my heart before no other King  
I bow my heart before no other name  
I bow my heart before no other King

A King like this  
A throne of grace that will stand forever  
The angels sing  
Glory glory hallelujah  
The Light the Light has come  
The Light the Light has come

## MEAL

### PRAYER

Let us pray.

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. **Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Though separated by the trials of this world, we are gathered into one by the Holy Spirit. Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **BREAKING OF BREAD**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SENDING SONG**

“Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)”

– *Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Georg Frideric Handel, Isaac Watts, Matt Gilder*

Joy to the world the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world the Savior reigns  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods rocks hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Joy unspeakable joy  
An overflowing well  
No tongue can tell  
Joy unspeakable joy  
It rises in my soul  
Never lets me go

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders wonders of His love