

Psalm 126

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

*²Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."*

*³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.*

*⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.*

*⁵May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.*

*⁶Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.*

Why do we light the PINK candle during Advent?

According to tradition, the Third Sunday in Advent is *Gaudete* Sunday—the day when a pink candle is lit on the Advent Wreath. *Gaudete* means “joy” in Latin, and this day is traditionally celebrated on the Third Sunday of Advent. It is called the “joy” candle because of Mary’s joyful announcement of Christ’s coming birth. So the pink flair in the Advent Wreath is the candle of “joy”—a break in the darkness of waiting.

“Rejoice” or “Gaudete” Sunday





Sunday, December 13, 2020
Third Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion

December 13, 2020 • 9:00, 11:00 A.M.

INTRODUCTION

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from First 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 the 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.

PRELUDE

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY/arr. Dew

MEDITATIVE MOMENT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRINITARIAN CHIMES

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Currently there is **NO CONGREGATIONAL SINGING**. Please silently meditate upon the words to this song.*

The assembly is seated.

GATHERING SONG

(Sung at Dec 16, 2018 service)

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

He Came Down

ELW 254

ELW 253

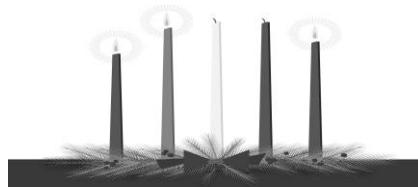
Sing verse 1 of "Come, Thou..." and verses 1 + 2 of "He Came Down";

Sing verse 2 of "Come, Thou..." and verses 3 + 4 of "He Came Down"

GREETING

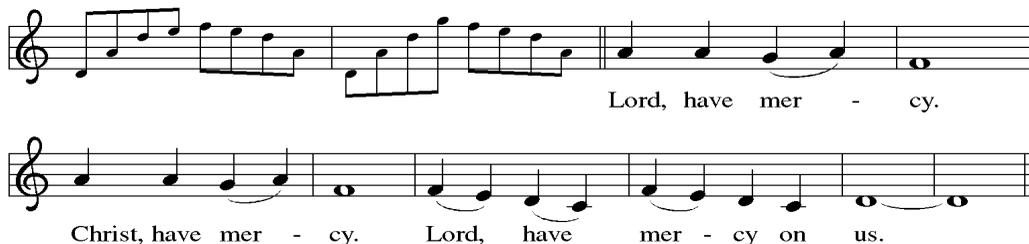
Beloved of God,
who are called to be saints:
grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.



LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

KYRIE (SUNG BY CANTOR)



Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath,
strengthen our hearts

as we await the Lord's coming in glory.

Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may serve our neighbors in need.

Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.



*The first two blue candles and the pink Advent candle are lit as the Cantor sings verse three of **Light One Candle**:*

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 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.
- 4 Light four 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.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

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.**

The assembly is seated.

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 the God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matt. 11:10)*

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.

The holy gospel according to John, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A time of reflection follows the sermon.

Currently there is **NO CONGREGATIONAL SINGING**. Please silently meditate upon the words to this song.

The assembly is seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW 247

(Courtesy of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Worcester, MA, Mark Mummert, Director of Music)

THE 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

"who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring to you, Christ, members and friends of Emmanuel who need your healing touch.
(Names from our congregation...)

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

During this time, the table is set.

OFFERTORY

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Frank Lester, soloist

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Savior of the nations, come.

Make your home here in us.

Feed us with your love,

that our faith shine ever new

and our lives reveal your light.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

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

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.
Come, eat and drink.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers and those at home say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond
Amen.

(Parents are encouraged to bless their children at this time. Follow the instructions from the Presiding Minister).



The assembly stands.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

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.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

*Currently there is **NO CONGREGATIONAL SINGING**. Please silently meditate upon the words to this song.*

The assembly is seated.

Courtesy of First Plymouth Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, Tom Trenney, Music Director and Organist.

SENDING SONG: ***Prepare the Way, O Zion***

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows. Please wait until the usher directs you to exit.

POSTLUDE

The King of Glory Comes

arr. Wayne Wold

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