

**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Sunday, December 13, 2020  
Third Sunday of Advent – PREPARE YE**

**“PRAISE”**

Theme – *Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,  
and give thanks to his holy name. Psalm 30:4*



**Call to Worship**

A: Prepare the way of the Lord!

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

**C: Sing with Moses and the people of Israel, saying—**

A: I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously.

**C: The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.**

A: When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, she asked,

**C: Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?**

A: Rejoice in the Lord always!

**C: Again I will say, rejoice!**

**Hymn - Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEEd0uWnDGs>

## Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

L: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: Loving and forgiving God,

**C: We confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

L: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace our sins are forgiven, and we are free – free from all that holds us back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May we be strengthened in God's love, and comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Greeting

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

**C: And also with you.**

## Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise – Hark the Glad Sound -**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nEPO-DuQexs>

### **Prayer of the Day**

A: Dear Father, thank you for giving joy to Mary, Elizabeth and her son John as they faced overwhelming challenges and difficulties.

**C: Give us the same Holy Spirit so that we, with rejoicing hearts, may believe and be used to accomplish your holy will;**

A: through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### ***Lighting of the Advent Wreath*** ***“Are We There Yet? – JOY”***

<https://youtu.be/3O-YNXpVQB0>

*Reader One: Sometimes on our journey, our feet get heavy, our shoulders feel burdened, and our hearts seem slow. Sometimes in the preparation, the busyness overwhelms us, and we get lost in the doing and the planning and the running. And what we lose is a sense of why. Why do we do all of this? Why is this journey necessary? And the answer is simple: for the joy of it. We forget the joy when we get caught up in the to-do lists.*

*Reader Two: Matthew tells us that when John asked if Jesus was the one to come, Jesus responded by saying look around you. Our call in this Advent journey is to look around us to see the one who comes already at work among us and to celebrate that presence with joy.*

*Reader One: We light the candles of peace and hope and joy to light our way as we journey.*

*(Light three candles on the wreath.)*

*Reader Two: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that God may teach us the ways of peace and hope and joy.*



***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*** (Hymn with lyrics)

<https://youtu.be/utpZAlcyWFU>

## **The Word**

**First reading – Exodus 15:1-3**

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea. <sup>2</sup>The Lord is my strength and my might, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. <sup>3</sup>The Lord is a warrior; the Lord is his name.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle reading – Philippians 4:4-8**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Holy Gospel – Luke 1:39-45, (46-56)**

<https://youtu.be/-CxRVxSF9bE>

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Message – Tim Leitner, SAM**

<https://youtu.be/UGaN0KMYsLM>

**Music – *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzIqsFMhUOk>

**Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead,  
on the third day, he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

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

*A brief silence.*

A: God of every living creature, extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of all peoples and nations, be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of exiles and wanderers, we pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

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

**C: Amen.**

**Music – The Magnificat – Christian Music with Lyrics – Koine**

<https://youtu.be/iqeY7JQ4rAg>

## **The 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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **Benediction**

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.**

## **Closing Music – Flung Wide the Door**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m30XX960dTE>

## **Dismissal**

A: Praising God as we wait, ponder and pray,  
we serve in Christ's name.

**C: We go to serve. Thanks be to God.**