

Midweek Advent Worship



“Advent Joy”

Calvary Lutheran Church
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December 16, 2020 7:00 p.m.



Order of Service for **THIRD MIDWEEK ADVENT**

Service of Prayer and Preaching

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Opening Anthem

O Rejoice, Ye Christians Loudly

Text: Christian Keimann; translated Catherine Winkworth; Tune: Andreas Hammerschmidt

*O rejoice, ye Christians, loudly, For your joy is now begun;
wondrous things our God hath done. Tell abroad His goodness proudly,
Who our race hath honored thus That He deigns to dwell with us.*

Refrain

*Joy, O joy beyond all gladness! Christ hath done away with sadness!
Hence, all sorrow and repining, For the Sun of grace is shining.*

*See, my soul, thy Savior chooses Weakness here and poverty,
In such love He comes to thee, Nor the hardest couch refuses;
All He suffers for thy good, To redeem thee by His blood. Refrain*

*Jesus, guard and guide Thy members, Fill Thy brethren with Thy grace,
Hear their pray'rs in ev'ry place, Quicken now life's faintest embers;
Grant all Christians, far and near, Holy peace, a glad New Year! Refrain*

Stand

Opening Responses

This is the day which the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it

From the rising of the sun to its setting
The name of the Lord is to be praised.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.

Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make His paths straight.

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.
Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.

From the rising of the sun to its setting,
The name of the Lord is to be praised.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Sit

Anthem

3 – Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

*Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation he will bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.*

*The King is born in poverty, His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe he brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!*

*Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to you; here, Lord, abide!
Oh, enter with your saving grace; Show me your kind and friendly face.
Your Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to your name.*

Readings from Holy Scripture

First Lesson

Psalm 5

Stay with this reading...in the end we find joy in God's refuge

PSALMS 5:1 Turn your ear to my words, O LORD.

Understand me when I sigh.

²Pay attention to my cry for help,
my King and my God,
for to you I pray.

³LORD, in the morning you hear my voice.

In the morning I lay out my requests in front of you,
and I watch for your answer.

⁴For you are not a God who takes pleasure in evil.
With you the wicked cannot dwell.

⁵The arrogant cannot stand before your eyes.
You hate all evildoers.

⁶You put to death those who speak lies.
The LORD is disgusted with bloodthirsty, deceitful men.

⁷But as for me, by your great mercy
I will enter your house.
I will bow down toward your holy temple
with reverence for you.

⁸LORD, lead me in your righteousness.
Because of those who slander me,
make your way straight before me.

⁹Nothing reliable comes out of their mouth.
From within them comes destruction.
Their throat is an open grave.
With their tongue they flatter.

¹⁰Declare them guilty, O God!
Let them fall because of their own schemes.
For their many treacherous deeds banish them,
because they have rebelled against you.

¹¹But let all who take refuge in you be glad.
Let them sing for joy forever.
You cover them with protection,
so those who love your name rejoice in you.

¹²Yes, LORD, you bless the righteous.
You surround them with your favor as a shield.

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

James 1:2-4

Stay with this life... we can find joy even in hardships.

JAMES 1:2 Consider it complete joy, my brothers, whenever you fall into various kinds of trials,
³because you know that the testing of your faith produces patient endurance. ⁴And let patient
endurance finish its work, so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

After the reading:

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 15:1-10

God finds joy in finding us! May we find joy when God finds others.

LUKE 15:1 All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear him. ²But the Pharisees
and the experts in the law were complaining, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with
them."

³He told them this parable: ⁴"Which one of you, if you had one hundred sheep and lost one
of them, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that was lost
until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home.
Then he calls together his friends and his neighbors, telling them, 'Rejoice with me, because I
have found my lost sheep!' ⁷I tell you, in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over
one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.

⁸“Or what woman who has ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, would not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says, ‘Rejoice with me, because I have found the lost coin.’ ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsory

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Stand

A Reading from the Catechism

The Third Article

Sanctification

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.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Sit

The Gifts that Make You Happy

Hymn

7 – Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the
 3 You saints, who here in pa - tience Your cross and
 4 A - rise, De - sire of na - tions; O Je - sus,



lights ap - pear; The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing,
 Bride-groom near; Go forth, as he ap - proach - es,
 suf - f' rings bore, Shall live and reign for - ev - er
 now ap - pear, The Hope and Ex - pec - ta - tion



And dark - er night is near. The Bride - groom
 With al - le - lu - ias clear. The mar - riage
 When sor - row is no more. A - round the
 Of ev - 'ry Chris - tian here. With hearts and



is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh. Up,
 feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand. A -
 throne of glo - ry The Lamb you shall be - hold; In
 hands up - lift - ed We plead, O Lord, to see The



pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.
 tri - umph lay be - fore him Your shin - ing crowns of gold.
 day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.
 Tune: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG (76 76 D) *Hymnal and Order of Service*, Rock Island, 1901.

Prayer

In peace let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, for the proclamation of the Gospel, and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For this nation, our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For... [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]... let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For these and all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Collect for the Word

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, by the patience and comfort of Your Holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. **Amen.**

Sit

Hymn

5 – As Angels Joyed with One Accord



1 As an - gels joyed with one ac - cord Up - on
2 He came, not clothed in maj - es - ty Nor pow'r
3 This done, he soared to God's right hand, Yet or -
4 In ev - 'ry age— let praise a - bound— He comes;
5 He comes in wa - ter to the child And cleans -



the ad - vent of our Lord, So laud we all and
that suits his de - i - ty. In low - ly state he
phaned not his cho - sen band, For he, not bound in
we hear his voice re-sound. His glo - rious gos - pel
es it, from birth de - filed. This wash - ing seals his



bless the name Of him who from the Fa - ther came.
walked till he In dy - ing set us cap - tives free.
grace and pow'r, At - tends his own each day and hour.
does not cease To bring us com - fort, joy, and peace.
pard - 'ning grace And shows the Fa - ther's kind - ly face.

6 He comes to us in bread and wine
To give himself—and gifts divine.
Oh, praise him for this sacrament,
Redeeming love's great testament!

7 Lift up your heads! All grief and pain
Shall vanish when he comes again.
Where we shall see him face to face,
There joy alone shall have a place.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–96, abr., alt. © 1993 Werner H. Franzmann. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin Melody, 15th century, adapt.

Blessing

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the (+) Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you. **Amen.**

Advent Joy

There are as many traditions surrounding Advent as there are homes in which it is celebrated.

In the Roman church, Advent was initially a season of repentance, similar in feel to our present day Lent. As Lent prepared people for the celebration of Easter, so Advent was viewed as a season of penitential preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

Farther west of Rome, the budding church in France approached Advent with greater zeal and joy. Anticipation rather than penitence marked their season of Advent.

Over the years, the church has struggled to merge these two varying traditions. One solution has been to maintain the stark readings concerning Jesus' second advent during the church's Sunday services, while reflecting greater joyful anticipation for the celebration of Jesus' first advent on Wednesday evening worship.



The Advent Wreath has been a welcome tradition that both keeps a solemn focus while also exuding joyful anticipation. Contrary to popular belief, it is not of ancient origin, but has a history less than 200 years! The traditions, meanings, and symbolism surrounding the Advent Wreath are not bound by a common thread of history. Some wreaths have as many as 24 candles, while others have only four. The candles themselves can be white, blue, violet, red or some combination thereof.

More recent traditions place a name on each candle. But even this tradition does not hold steady! Among some the candles are designated as: Prophet's Candle, Bethlehem's Candle, Shepherd's Candle, and Angel's Candle. Others refer to the candles as: Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace. Still others understand the candles to symbolize: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

This year, Calvary will follow the last tradition. On each Wednesday during Advent and on Christmas Day, we will focus our attention, in succession, on the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love (with Jesus at the center). Not only will readings, meditations, and the Advent wreath emphasize these gifts, new banners will also help highlight these specific Advent themes.

Joy



HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2020

“Jesus Is the Greatest Gift”



November 28,29	Advent 1	Regular schedule
December 2	Midweek Advent	7:00 p.m.
December 5,6	Advent 2	Regular schedule
December 9	Midweek Advent	7:00 p.m.
December 12,13	Advent 3	Regular schedule
December 16	Midweek Advent	7:00 p.m.
December 19,20	Advent 4	Regular schedule
December 24	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	3:30 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	7:00 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Compline	11:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day Festival with the Lord’s Supper	9:30 a.m.
December 26,27	First Sunday after Christmas	Regular Schedule
December 31	New Year’s Eve with the Lord’s Supper	7:00 p.m.