

# **THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**Saturday, December 11, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.**

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

**4101 Washington Street NE**

**Columbia Heights, MN 55421**

*Welcome to worship at St. Matthew! To friends who know us, we renew our welcome; to visitors, we extend it sincerely; and to those seeking a church home, we offer fellowship with a living Redeemer. Come again!*

*We ask that all guests sign a yellow attendance card located in the pew rack, and then please hand the card to the pastor as you leave the worship service.*

*Assisted hearing devices and large print hymnals and orders of service are available from the ushers.*

*If you have a prayer request, please write it out on one of the green prayer cards located in the pew rack, and then submit it to Pastor Hugo or the lay minister before the service begins. Other prayer requests can be made by calling the church office at 763-788-9427.*

*Parents with small children are encouraged to sit near the front in order to better see and participate during the service. If you desire other facilities, a cry room is located in the back of the worship area and bathrooms with changing tables (including back-up supplies) and infant seats are located behind the worship area (two right turns as you pass the double doors out of the worship area – just past the water fountain).*

*Thank you for turning off all electronic equipment (cell phones, items that receive internet signal, etc.). These items interfere with our sound system.*

## **+ CONNECT +**

### **INVOCATION:**

**L:** Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **OPENING SENTENCES:**

**L:** Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart.

**C:** **The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.**

**L:** “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

**C:** **The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;**

**L:** He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;

**C:** **He will exult over you with loud singing.**

**L:** I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

**C:** **We worship You, O Lord!**

## MEDLEY OF JOY:

“Hark! The Glad Sound” – Blue Hymnal #29

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne And ev’ry voice a song.

He comes the pris’ners to release, In Satan’s bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst, The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring With your beloved name.

## “Rejoice in the Lord Always”

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are: "Re - joyce in the Lord— al - ways and a - gain I say re - joyce. Re - joyce in the Lord— al - ways and a - gain I say re - joyce. Re - joyce, re - joyce, and a - gain I say re - joyce. Re - joyce, re - joyce, and a - gain I say re - joyce." The score includes chord markings: I, G, D7, and II. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a focus on the lyrics.

*(“Rejoice in the Lord Always” by Evelyn Turner, copyright 1967 Word Music, CCLI Lic. #921494)*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

L: Let us pray

C: O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## CANDLELIGHTING SONG: "Light the Candle of JOY"

(Advent 3) Light the can-dle of JOY to-day, the Giv-er of joy is  
here! \_\_\_\_\_ Wel-come the joy we crave and pay for, but  
on - ly Christ can give. \_\_\_\_\_ Flick- er and flame and  
glow \_ with joy, light up the world a - round you.  
Flick- er and flame and glow \_ with joy, light up the world a -  
round \_\_\_\_\_ you. \_\_\_\_\_

*("Light the Candle" by Jaroslav Vajda and Carl Schalk, copyright 1988 by Morning Star Music Publishers, OneLicense.Net #A-704112)*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Through the message of our children tonight, open our hearts and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.**

### GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing. I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**EPISTLE LESSON: Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**L:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**HOLY GOSPEL:**

**L:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter seven.

**C:** **Glory to You, O Lord!**

John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?'" At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

**L:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C:** **Praise to You, O Christ!**

**SONG OF THE DAY: "Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee" (st. 1 & 2)**

**Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of Glory, Lord of Love  
Little Baby here among us Sent to earth from God above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the dark of doubt away  
Giver of immortal gladness Fill us with the light of day.**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heaven reflect Thy grace  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, hill and mountain, Flowery meadow, crashing sea  
Singing bird and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**MESSAGE: "Jesus: Light of the World" – DCLC Students  
Narrated by Shelly Record-White**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

**+ EMPOWER +**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

*(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)*

**P:** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C:** **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.**

**CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:**

**P:** Let's take some time to reflect on why we need this Savior. We pray: It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things.

**C:** **Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts, and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep.**

**P:** The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need.

**C:** **Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives.**

**P:** You have brought hope and peace to us.

**C:** **Now cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that in helping, we find great and abundant joy. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.**

**FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" (st. 3 & 4)**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blessed,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, All who live in love are Thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.**

**Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, Christ to us at last is come.  
Word made flesh who dwells among us: God's salvation work begun.  
Lamb of God, His blood shed for us, Angel of death now passes by,  
All creation joins in chorus: "Amen! Hallelu!" we cry.**

*("Joyful, Joyful" words by Henry J. VanDyke – public domain; st. 1-3 new words by Jamison Statemia, Copyright 2010 Found Free Music, CCLI Lic. #921494; st. 4 – new words by C. Blase)*

**DCLC SONG: "I Have Light"**

**+ + +**

**Lay Minister:** Bob Nehring

**David's Christian Learning Center Students and Staff**

**Preschool:** Ava Anderson, Case Brodeen, Sylvi Brynness, Lucy Carlson, Luke Carlson, Helen Flyger, Teddy Hoskins, Lily Marie Latimore, Shondell McGill, Atlas Meeker, Desmond Poppen, Corbin Qualy, Wyatt Tuy, Isaiah Wade, Anders Wenzel

**Teachers:** Tabby Nyberg, Samantha Struzyk, Luz Maria Deleg Sumba, Julie Allen, Traci Arnold, Amber Byxbe

**Toddlers:** Serenity Church-Moore, Zaylon Frazier, Remi Gabino, Ziggy Gelle, Josie Hoskins, Jaylin Linehan, Evy Peterson, Penelope Poppen, Liezel Schirber, Jordan Whitfield

**Teachers:** Shelly Record-White, Kelly Mullins, Luz Maria Deleg Sumba, Kelly Jo Mechelke

**Infants:** Annie Carlson, Maxwell Gabino, Emmanuel Mus, Hudson Qualy

**Teachers:** Linda Dotseth, Eliane Shimada, Luz Maria Deleg Sumba, Traci Arnold

**Director:** Julie Sventek

**Assistant Director:** Samantha Struzyk