

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 13, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

OPENING MEDLEY OF JOY:

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays.
Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain, Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest.
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!

“Mourning Into Dancing”

CHORUS

The musical notation is for the chorus of the hymn "Mourning Into Dancing". It is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody consists of the following notes: a quarter rest, a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, a quarter note A, a quarter note G, a quarter note F#, and a quarter note G. The lyrics "You've turned my mourn - ing in - to" are written below the notes. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: G above the first G, F#m7(b5) above the A, B7 above the B, D/E above the first A, Em above the G, D/F# above the F#, and G above the final G.

3 Am⁷ G/B C Em/D D

danc - ing — a - gain, you've lift - ed — my sor - rows;

5 G F#m7(b5) B7 D/E Em D/F# G

and I can't stay si - lent, I must

7 Am⁷ G/B Am/C C/D D G *Fine* VERSE

sing, for your joy has come. — Where there

9 G C G C

once was on - ly — hurt, — you

11 G C G C

gave your heal - ing — hand; — where there

13 G C G C

once was on - ly — pain, — you brought

15 G C G *3*

com - fort like a — friend. — And I feel the

17 F2 C2/E

sweet - ness of your love pierc - ing my

19 G Cmaj7/G G

dark - ness; and I see the

21 F2 C2/E

bright and morn - ing sun as it

23 F/Eb C/D G/D C/D D *D.C. al Fine*

ush - ers in your joy - ful glad - ness.

*("Mourning Into Dancing" by Tommy Walker, copyright 1991
Integrity's Hosanna! Music, CCLI Lic. #921494.)*

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.**

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Let's turn to God in repentance and receive the wonderful assurance that He forgives us. God of mercy, light and love,

C: **We confess that we have not been people who are quick to respond to you or to the needs of those around us.**

L: When an opportunity to serve arises, we are quick to find excuses.
C: **We have not been committed to serving you by serving others.**

L: Remind us that even though we have often failed to witness to your love and live as people of compassion and faith, you love us unconditionally.
C: **Forgive our stubbornness and willfulness. Cleanse our souls and spirits and make us truly ready to receive your light. In Jesus' name, we pray, Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.
C: **The light no darkness can overcome.**

P: Let your light scatter the darkness
C: **And illumine your Church.**

P: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors
C: **That the King of glory may come in. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

SONG: "We Light the Advent Candle"

**We light the Advent candle And share the wondrous Word.
With love, we tell of Jesus Til all around have heard.
God's love is for each nation Throughout His whole creation.
We wait with growing light Til God makes all things right!**

**We light the Advent candle And thank the Lord for rest.
With peace, we know our Jesus Has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing Within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light Til God makes all things right!**

**We light the Advent candle And sing with cheerful heart.
With joy, we spread the message – A blessing to impart.
Our joy is never ending; The Son to us is sending.
We wait with growing light Til God makes all things right!**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **Lord of impending Light, we rejoice in your compassion for us. You send us your light and your healing love so that we may become better representatives of you in this world which cries for justice and peace. Be with us this morning as we gather to hear your word for us, Amen.**

+ NURTURE +

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations..... "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the LORD has blessed." I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

EPISTLE LESSON: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE: "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 with lyrics underneath. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: I (G), G, D7, G, D7, G, II, D7, G, D7, G. The lyrics are: "Re - joice in the Lord— al - ways and a - gain I say re - joice. Re - joice in the Lord— al - ways and a - gain I say re - joice. Re - joice, re - joice, and a - gain I say re - joice. Re - joice, re - joice, and a - gain I say re - joice."

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

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter one.

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

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.... Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

SONG OF THE DAY: "God Rest You, Merry People Here"
God rest you merry, people here, Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r, When we were gone astray;

**REFRAIN: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!**

From God our Heav'nly Father, A blessed angel came;
And unto certain Shepherds, Brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by Name. **REFRAIN:**

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place.
And with true love and brotherhood Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas All other doth efface. **REFRAIN:**

MESSAGE: "ReBoot Christmas" – Children's Ministries Families

RESPONSE: Pastor Bill

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: “Trading My Sorrows”

CHORUS

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes.

Staff 1: Chords A, D, F#m, E. Lyrics: I'm trad-ing my sor-rows; I'm trad-ing my sick-ness;

Staff 2: Chords A, D, F#m, E. Lyrics: I'm trad-ing my shame. I'm trad-ing my pain.

Staff 3: Chords A, D, F#m7, E. Lyrics: I'm lay-ing them down for the joy of the

Staff 4: Chords A, D, F#m, E. Lyrics: Lord. Last time to Coda

9 A D F#m7 E A D
 Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord. Yes, Lord, yes, Lord,

12 F#m7 E/G# A D F#m7 E
 yes, yes, Lord... Yes, Lord, yes, Lord, yes, yes, Lord. A-men...

15 D F#m E **VERSE**
Opt.: LEADER
 — I am pressed—

17 A D F#m E
 — but not—crushed, per-se-cut-ed, not a-ban-doned,—

19 A D F#m E/G#
 struck down,— but not de-stroyed. I am blessed.

21 A D F#m E
 — be-yond the curse, for His prom-ise will en-dure, that His

23 A D F#m E
 joy's gon-na be my strength.—

25 *Opt.: ALL* A/E E
 Though the sor-row— may last for— the night, His joy—

27 G2

1. D

2. D.S. al CODA

— comes with the morn - ing. ing.

("Trading My Sorrow" by Darrell Evans, copyright 1998 Integrity's Hosanna! Music,
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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Minister: Faustina Allen

Altar Guild: Pat & Duane Rosenberg