

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17th, 2023, 10:00 a.m.



**Prelude**     *Divinum Mysterium* ~ Craig Phillips

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

Today we light the candle of joy as we remember that God's dream for this world involves a joy that overflows and is contagious.

**So may it burn bright, and as it does, may we sing.**

**May we dance. May we laugh.**

Today we light the candle of joy as we remember that God's dream for this world involves the end of all tears.

**So may it burn bright in dark places.**

**May we sow joy in a hurting world,**

Today we light the candle of joy. May our joy be an act of holy resistance.

He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy; he  
came down that we may have joy; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er more.

He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light; he  
came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er more.

May this light be an invitation to see joy and beauty around us.

**May this light be our invitation to be Advent people – people who dream. Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**     *Hark, the Glad Sound!* ~ ELW 239

### **Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

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

#### **And also with you**

Loving God, **you called Mary to give herself to your dream of a better world, and Mary sang her joy. May we share her dream of a world turned upside-down in your love, and offer ourselves to your service. Gratefully we pray; Amen.**

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

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge

that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.  
 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
 my whole being shall exult in my God;  
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
 to spring up before all the nations.

Word of God, word of life  
**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm**

*The cantor will sing the first two verses, and the congregation will sing the remaining verses in unison.*

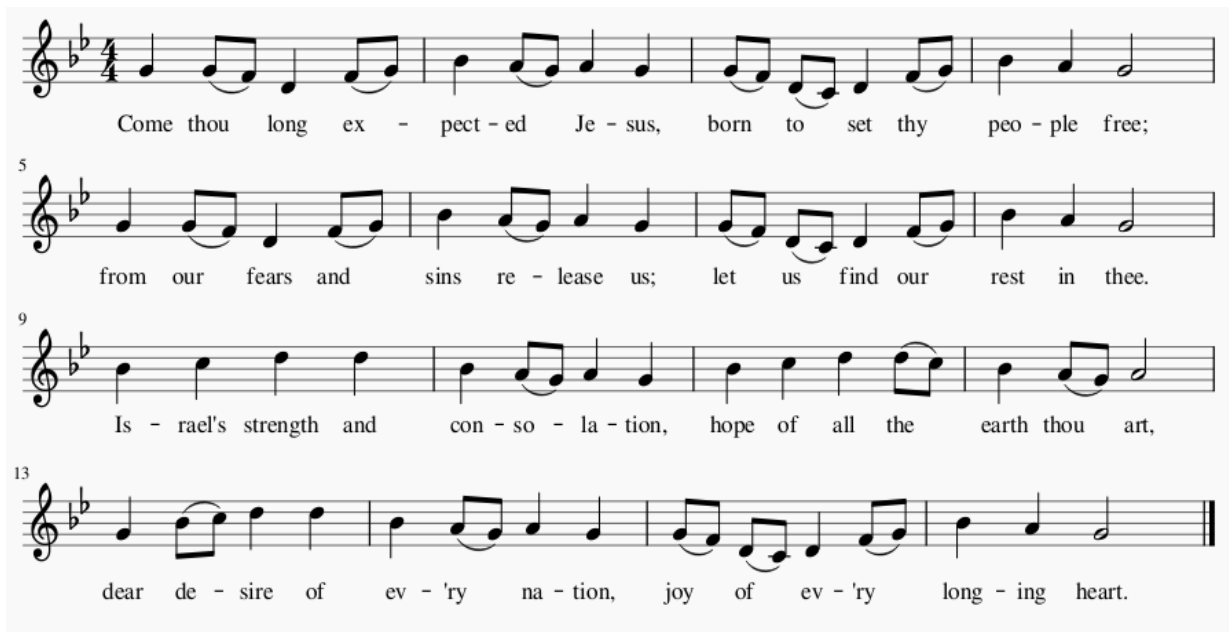


When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
 then were we like | those who dream.  
 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.  
 Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great | things for them."

**The LORD has done great | things for us,  
 and we are | glad indeed.  
 Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,  
 like the watercourses | of the Negeb.**

**Those who | sowed with tears  
 will reap with | songs of joy.  
 Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
 will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.**

**Gospel Reading**      **Luke 1:46-55**



Come thou long ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
5 from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
9 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
13 dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.

The holy gospel according to Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

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

The gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

## Sermon

**Hymn of the Day**    *Filled with Hope and Gratitude ~ ACS 907*

## Affirmation of Faith

Great Creator,  
We are in awe of you.  
We will never know how you managed to dream up  
Mountains and valleys,  
A cool morning mist,  
The change of seasons,  
Or the magic of music.

Your greatness is beyond our reckoning.  
And because we are in awe of you,  
We believe we must follow Mary's lead  
And allow our souls to sing.  
We believe that the appropriate reaction to your goodness is complete gratitude,  
Which looks like love for our neighbor,  
Justice for the poor,  
Food for the hungry,  
And joy that overflows.  
And even though we do not always believe in ourselves,  
We believe that our song is pleasing to you.  
We believe.  
Help our unbelief.  
In Christ's name we pray; Amen

## Prayers

*Each portion of the prayers concludes, Merciful God,  
and you may respond, **receive our prayer***

## Peace

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. Some may wish to shake hands, bump elbows, or simply nod to one another with the greeting; please be sensitive to varying preferences as we share the peace of Christ in preparation for Holy Communion.*

**Musical Offering** People Look East ~ arr. Sandra Eithun (Hallelujah Ringers)

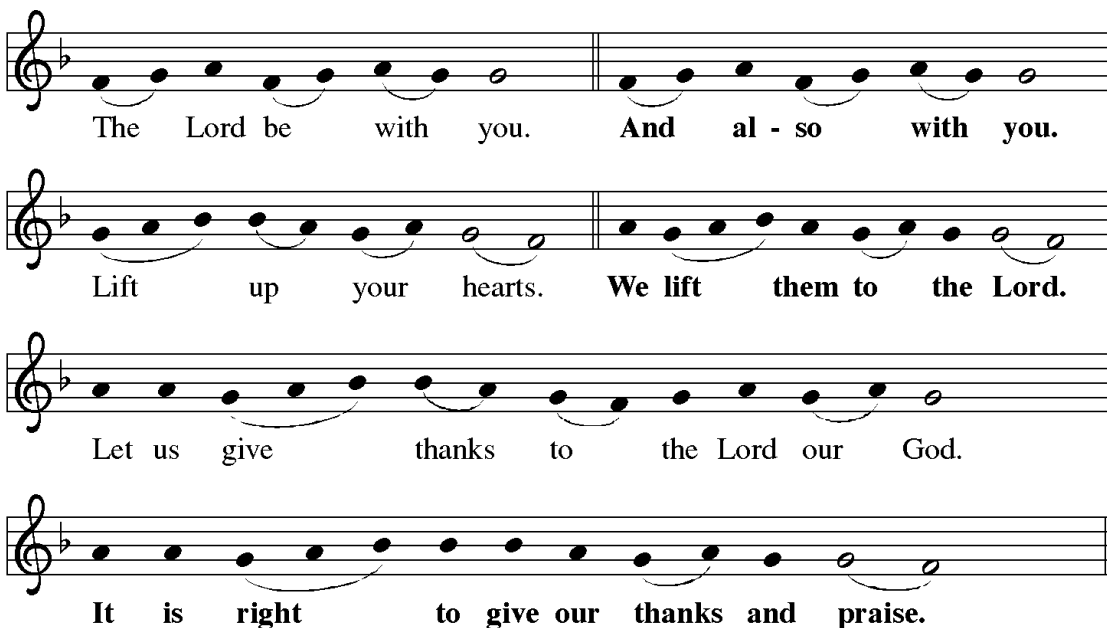
We are not passing the offering plate; instead, the plate is sitting near the door to the worship space to receive financial gifts which support our ministry. You can also give using the Vanco App. on your digital device.

**Offering Hymn** Come Now, O Prince of Peace ~ ELW 247 vs. 1,2

**Offering Prayer**

God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Holy Communion**



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

It is indeed right . . . Join their unending hymn:



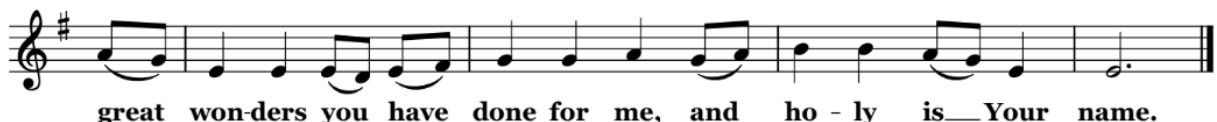
My soul pro-claims Your great-ness, Lord; I\_\_\_ sing my Sav-ior's praise!



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full\_ of grace.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this\_ bless - ing\_ shall pro - claim:



great won-ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is\_\_\_ Your name.

Holy one ....

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit...

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, O God, now and forever

**Amen**

### 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.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil

for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

**Communion Hymn**      *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light ~ ELW 815*

**Blessing after Communion**

**Prayer after Communion**

Faithful God, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery; in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Benediction**

The God of peace bless you,  
 the love of Christ sustain you in hope,  
 and the inspiration of the Spirit remain upon you  
 now and forever

**Amen**

**Sending Hymn**      *Joy to the World ~ ELW 267*

**Dismissal**

Wait for the Lord in faith and hope

**Thanks be to God**

**Postlude**      *Toccata on 'Antioch' ~ Craig Phillips*

