

JOIN US
FOR WORSHIP!



The Light of Grace
Week 3 – Joy

THE LIGHT OF
grace



ADVENT MIDWEEK

DECEMBER 20, 2023

**congregation stands*

AS WE GATHER

In this third service in The Light of Grace series for Advent, we celebrate that Jesus is the Light of the world who shines on us with his amazing grace, and we focus on the gracious gift of joy, exemplified in the life of Elizabeth.

OPENING HYMN

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES

LSB 341, vs. 1–4

***INVOCATION**

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Three Advent candles are lit.

P Today we light the third Advent candle, the candle of joy. When Mary, the mother of our Lord, visited her kinswoman Elizabeth, Elizabeth's unborn son John leaped for joy at the sound of Mary's greeting. Elizabeth was filled with joy, knowing that the promised Messiah would soon be born. We, too, rejoice as we prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth.

C **We will rejoice in the Lord, now and forever!**

- P The prophet Isaiah foretold a highway, the Way of Holiness, a place where the redeemed would walk. Following that holy Way, the redeemed would live in the presence of God and know everlasting joy. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.
- C **We will rejoice in the Lord, now and forever!**

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P In the midst of our joy, we are called to repent and acknowledge our need for a Savior. Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.
- C **Almighty God, while we rejoice in the birth of our Savior, we do not always find joy in following him. We seek to satisfy ourselves with earthly joy, joy that does not last. We turn away from the guidance of your Word and follow our own selfish desires. We do not walk in love as Jesus walked and instead put our needs ahead of the needs of others. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins for Jesus' sake. Lead us to find joy in following Jesus our Lord.**
- P God had mercy on us and sent his Son to be our Savior. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- C **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!**

HYMN OF RESPONSE

AMAZING GRACE

LSB 744, vs. 1, 4, 5

*COLLECT FOR TODAY

HYMN THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS

LSB 348. vs. 1, 2

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS

LSB 348. vs. 4, 5

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the
crocus;

²it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;

they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;

they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39–45

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

- P O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY

LSB 344, vs. 1, 2

SERMON THE LIGHT OF GRACE AND JOY: ELIZABETH

*** HYMN ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY**

LSB 344, vs. 3, 5

***APOSTLES' CREED**

OFFERING

***PRAYERS**

After each petition:

- P Jesus, our King and Savior,
C **In you, we have eternal joy!**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

*BENEDICTION

- P And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness ... the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing;
- C **Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**
- P May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.
- C **Amen.**

HYMN TO DEPART

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

LSB 357, vs. 1, 4, 6

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Worship Sunday, December 24 | 9:00*am

Note there is only one Sunday morning worship service Sunday, December 24, 2023, and no Sunday school or adult Bible class.



Christmas Worship

December 24 | 3:30pm | Christmas Eve Family Worship
December 24 | 7:00*pm | Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion
December 25 | 9:00*am | Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion



Worship with Holy Communion Sunday, December 31 | 9:00*am

Note there is only one worship service Sunday, December 31, 2023, and no Sunday school or adult Bible class.

*livestream at trinityloneoak.org