

A small green gift box with a red bow is placed on a burlap sack. The background is a blurred, warm-toned scene, possibly a field or a forest floor, with soft lighting. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

HE COMES,  
**BEARING**  
*gifts*

THE GIFT OF JOY

Third Sunday In Advent

*December 16, 2018*

We are thankful that you've chosen to worship with us.

We love children worshipping with us. But we understand that kids can get restless. We have a few options for your convenience: Quiet Bags in the back of church, filled with activity pages and books; a Quiet Area in the library area of our Commons with a rocking chair, children's books and toys; Changing Tables in both washrooms down the hallway to the right as you exit the chapel.

Most of the service is projected on the front wall. You can also find the service and hymns in the hymnal. Bibles are available on request. If you want, you may follow along with the today's readings from your mobile device.

*Please be sure to silence your mobile device so you don't disrupt the service or distract people's worship.*

## **SERVICE NOTES FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The ancient church had Latin titles for all their Sundays. They called the third Sunday in Advent "Gaudete Sunday." The Latin word *gaudete* means rejoice. We rejoice to see Christ's second coming because of his *first* coming. Jesus was born, not to punish sin, but to be punished for sin. All those with faith in Christ know that when he comes for the second time, it will be to deliver us, not destroy us. He will not increase our pain but take every pain away. Then, and not a moment before, our lives will finally be perfect! And so, we live joyfully and thankfully, looking forward to Christ's return.

## **PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

God of mercy and compassion, satisfy me in the morning with your unfailing love, that I may sing for joy and be glad all my days. Amen.

## **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Presiding minister**

Pastor Erich Westphal

**Organist**

Sasha Schallert

**Ushers**

John Nueman, Guy Schimenz

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# **ADVENT GATHERING RITE: JOY**

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## **INVOCATION**

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## **CONFESSION OF SINS AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C: **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

M: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

*Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23*

C: *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* | **CW 23**

**Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lowly exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven (Galatians 4:4,5). In view of God's mercy, today we light the *joy* candle. Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him. (1 Peter:1:8).

C: **And we are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for we are receiving the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls** (1 Peter 1:8,9).

C: *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* | **CW 23**

**Oh, come, our Joy, who 's love forgives--  
Whose death assures that we will live!  
Move us to heed the call, "Repent!"  
And trust for your sake God relents.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: In the *joy* of God, we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16-18).

C: **God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are, therefore, Christ’s ambassadors, as though God we are making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God** (2 Corinthians 5:19-21).

C: *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel* | **CW 23**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel**

The service continues with the *Prayer of the Day* on page 29 of Christian Worship.

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-17

The LORD has taken away the punishment for our sins. Therefore, the prophet tells us that when we see Christ, our joy will be complete...and also that the LORD will find joy in us.

<sup>14</sup> Sing, O Daughter of Zion;  
shout aloud, O Israel!  
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,  
O Daughter of Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> On that day they will say to Jerusalem,  
“Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands hang limp.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is with you,  
he is mighty to save.  
He will take great delight in you,  
he will quiet you with his love,  
he will rejoice over you with singing.”

## PSALM OF THE DAY

# Psalm 14

### *Refrain*

Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord Je - sus,  
come. Re - store your peo-ple and bless them.

### *Psalm Tone*

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”  
They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men  
to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt;  
there is no one who does good, not even one.

### *Refrain*

Will evildoers never learn—  
those who devour my people and do not call on the LORD?

You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,  
but the LORD is their refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!  
When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,  
let Israel rejoice and be glad!

**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.**

### *Refrain*

## SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

Because our sins have been forgiven, Christ is always near us. We have the peace of knowing we will live forever with him. Therefore, we can live joyfully instead of anxiously, no matter our earthly circumstances.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

Matthew 11:10

Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

Repentance is actually a joyful activity. While we are contrite about sin, we rejoice that we have a Savior whose life, death, and resurrection mean that we will escape sin's punishment.

We joyfully turn to him in faith. And in gratitude, we joyfully produce fruits of repentance.

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> "What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

<sup>11</sup> John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same."

<sup>12</sup> Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

<sup>13</sup> "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

<sup>14</sup> Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"

He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup> And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* | 7

## SERMON

"The Joy of Repentance" | **Luke 3:7-18**

## SERMON NOTES

1. What is the **MAIN THING** that God teaches me in this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What **SIN** does God lead me to confess, based on this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does God lead me to **GIVE THANKS** for, based on this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What does God lead me to **PRAY** for or about, based on this passage?

## NICENE CREED

*Christian Worship* | **pg. 31**

## OFFERING

*Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him.  
If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated to give an offering.*

*Please record your visit on the Connection Card. This is also where we register for Holy Communion.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR ADVENT

### LORD'S PRAYER

Modern Version | page 32

### THE SACRAMENT

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.*

*If you want to establish communing fellowship with us, **please wait to receive the Lord's Supper** until you have had a chance to speak with the pastor.*

#### PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

*If you have established communing fellowship with us and desire to receive the Lord's Supper today, please use the following questions to help you prepare:*

- Q: Do I recognize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment?
- Q: Do I want forgiveness for my failures (according to the Ten Commandments) to carry out the responsibilities of my calling(s)?
- Q: Do I believe that Jesus purchased forgiveness for me by his sinless life for me and death on the cross as the payment for all my sins?
- Q: Do I believe that Jesus gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of my sins?
- Q: Do I intend, with Christ's help, to fight temptation, do what I can to correct the wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works?

### DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*As Angels Joyed with One Accord* | 5

## THANKSGIVING

### THANK THE LORD

*Christian Worship* | page 36

### CLOSING HYMN

*Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing* | 443

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THANK YOU** to everyone that made the Advent by Candlelight a wonderful event. We had about 35 women gathered together with a beautiful candlelit program. The appetizers and desserts were outstanding.

**THANK YOU** to everyone that has been completing their connection cards. It has been a big change but we have been successful with the transition. The Peter Plan has allowed us to be aware of any members that haven't been able to attend church lately and reach out to them expressing care and concern.

**LWMS** wants to express their extreme gratitude for your donations last week. We received \$433 which was our largest donation ever!

**GREETERS NEEDED** for our back door. We would like to bring back having greeters at the back door. All you need to do is be friendly and answer any questions visitors may have. If you are able to help out, please sign up on the back of the Connection Card.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** for next year are by the bulletin board.

If you currently use the *Simply Giving* program, we did not issue a box of envelopes. We will have envelopes for you to use for Lent, Easter, Special Offerings, Thanksgiving, etc. You will have to write your name on the envelope for these special services. If you desire a box, please ask Lisa.

**BENEVOLENT FUND** currently has \$357 in the fund. The basket will continue to be out through the end of the year with our hope being \$1000 to start the new year. Jesus urges us to "love our neighbor as ourselves." To love as Christ has loved us.

## Calendar Week

### Today

Sunday School	9:00 am
Bible Study	9:00 am
Worship	10:00 am
Fellowship	11:00 am

### Monday

Men's Growth Group	7:00 pm
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### Tuesday

Bible Class	3:15 pm
<b>Christmas Choir Concert</b>	
At West Lutheran	7:00 pm

### Thursday

Choir Christmas Party	6:45 pm
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### Sunday

Sunday School	9:00 am
Bible Study	9:00 am
Worship	10:00 am
Fellowship	11:00 am

## Serving In The Lord

### Ushers

Today:	John Nueman Guy Schimenz
Next Sunday:	Andrew Boyd Larry Gens

### Organist

Today:	Sasha Schallert
Next Sunday:	Sasha Schallert

## Blessings From The Lord

### Attendance

Sunday School – 7
Bible Study – 21
Sunday Service – 68
Tuesday Bible Class – 9

*Tithes & Offerings* \$ 7,317.00



# Brooklyn

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