



**Go and tell John what you have seen and heard:
the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers
are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are
raised up, the poor have good news preached to
them.**

Luke 7:22

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2024

11:00A

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH, CONOVER

AS WE GATHER Are you feeling the joy? At this point in the month of December, studies show that many people are not feeling joy. Many people are feeling overwhelmed as they approach Christmas, feeling stressors that include not having enough money, missing loved ones, and anticipating family conflict. No matter how we come to our time of worship today, even if stressed, distracted, and frazzled, what great timing to hear what God speaks to us in this season and each day. From all our Readings today, we hear of joy! It is a joy not based on our own momentary perspectives of how things should go, but rather a joy from God’s eternal perspective for our sake and what has freely been done for us. As our Advent season continues, may our true joy be found in the one for whom we prepare—Christ, who was born for us and who is with us and for us and is today in our midst as He comes to us in the means of grace.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand.

OPENING HYMN

“Once He Came in Blessing”

333

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *Jn. 1:5, 9; 15:10–11; Ps. 100:1–5*

P We light the third Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh, and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

C The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

P The third, pink Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. *Gaudete* in Latin means

“rejoice,” as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

C The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.

P Guided by the light of joy, we respond with the psalmist: “Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

C Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.

P Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

C Give thanks to Him; bless His name!

P For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

C and His faithfulness to all generations.”

Three Advent candles are lit.

HYMN **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** **357**

5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us

wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
by Thy draw - ing night; Dis - perse the gloom - y

leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Refrain

Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Em - man - u - el
 Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Philippians 4:4-7

P As we gather today to hear God’s Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, we come before Him as people who are broken by an imperfect world, burdened by sin, and bearing guilt for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. In the midst of our condition, the Word of God speaks to us. In today’s Epistle, we hear, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

C We confess we do not rejoice in everything; instead, we let the weight of this world bring us down. Instead of seeing all good things from Your hand, at times we focus on that which does not give You glory nor bring lasting joy to our lives.

P “Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.”

C We confess we have at times been unreasonable in our relationships with others and in our relationship with You. Our witness to Your grace has faltered.

P “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

C We confess we have been anxious about our sin and our circumstances of life. Create in us a clean heart and renew in us a right spirit that we may abide in Your love and that Your joy may be in us, and our joy may be full.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

We sit.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 3:14–20

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM “Let Us Sing with Heart and Voice” Behnke/Pelz

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4:4–7

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We stand.

ALLELUIA & VERSE



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:18–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

We sit.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

515

SERMON

“Show and Tell”

Pastor Michael Geml

We stand.

APOSTLES' CREED

Inside back cover of LSB

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Cor. 11:26; Rev. 22:20*

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

We sit.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“When All the World Was Cursed” 346

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” 347

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise” 917

POSTLUDE



Sermon Notes

Rejoice
and
Exult
with
all
your
heart!

You shall never
again fear evil

Zephaniah 3:14-15