

# Third Sunday in Advent

December 15, 2024 ~ 10:30



## WELCOME

## HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

# 357, v 6-7

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*John 1:5, 9; 15:10-11; Psalm 100:1-5*

Pastor: 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.

People: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Pastor: 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."

People: **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

Pastor: 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!"

People: **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.**

Pastor: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

**People: Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

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

**People: and His faithfulness to all generations.”**

*Three Advent candles are lit.*

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Philippians 4:4–7*

Pastor: 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."

**People: 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.**

Pastor: "Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand."

**People: 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.**

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

**People: 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.**

Pastor: 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 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.

**People: Amen.**

+ WORD +

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Into the darkness, You bring light, and into our lives, You bring lasting joy.

**People: Fill us with Your Spirit that we may rightly prepare and welcome the Savior promised and born for us, that in Him, Your joy may be known, and our joy may be complete;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT**, Zephaniah 3:14–20

**EPISTLE**, Philippians 4:4–7

**HOLY GOSPEL**, Luke 7:18–28

**SONG**

Your Name

Humbly to the earth You came  
Born into this world to say  
God with us Emmanuel  
Now we adore Your Name

Your Name is a strong and mighty tower  
Your Name is a shelter like no other  
Your Name let the nations sing it louder  
'Cause nothing has the power to save  
But Your Name

Jesus in Your Name we pray  
Come and fill our hearts today  
Lord give us strength to live for You  
And glorify Your Name

Your Name is a strong and mighty tower  
Your Name is a shelter like no other  
Your Name let the nations sing it louder  
'Cause nothing has the power to save  
But Your Name

## SERMON

## APOSTLES' CREED

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## OFFERING

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9–13*

## CLOSING SENTENCES

*John 1:5, 9*

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

People: **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: Rejoice! . . . Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. The blessing of almighty God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be with you.

People: **Amen.**

## HYMN

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

# 803, v 1-3

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**Today's Altar Flowers are given by:** Kevin and Deb Lutz,  
Celebrating their 35th anniversary

### **This Week at Faith**

**Christmas by Candlelight**, today, 3 pm

**Cookie Sale**, today

**Pickleball** - Sunday, today, 6:30 pm

**Confirmation** - Tuesday, 5:45 pm

**Bible Study** - Wednesday, 6:00 pm

**Advent Service** - Wednesday 7 pm

**See the Newsletter for more upcoming events.**

Bobby Sorensen says: "many thanks for cards and Merry Christmas.

**See the Newsletter for more upcoming events.**