

The Third Sunday of Advent, year B

December 13, 2020 + Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Focus on the Season: The Third Sunday of Advent, year B

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. In the midst of our preparations and longings we rejoice that the faithful one who brings good news to the oppressed and brokenhearted is already in our midst, helping us hold fast to what is good. With John the Baptist we point the way to the coming light that brings great joy to all the world.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The links are embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the links in the email.



Centering and Gathering

Light your candle. [Start the video by clicking here](#); it will continue through the Postlude.

PRELUDE: “Rejoice in the Lord Always” John Redford (1500-1547)

Sung by the Mount Olive Cantorei on the Third Sunday of Advent, year C, December 16, 2018.

ADVENT DIALOG AND KYRIE



- P** The Spirit and the ^l Church cry out:
- C** **Amen.** ^l **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** All those who await his ap- ^l pearance pray:
- C** **Amen.** ^l **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** The whole cre- ^l ation pleads:
- C** **Amen.** ^l **Come, Lord Jesus.**

KYRIE

Musical notation for the Kyrie. It consists of three staves: a soprano staff (A), a chorus staff (C), and a bass staff. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The soprano staff has a treble clef and the lyrics: "A: Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son." The chorus staff has a treble clef and the lyrics: "C: Ky - ri - e e lei - son." The bass staff has a bass clef and the lyrics: "C: Ky - ri - e e lei - son." The notation includes various note values and rests, with some notes tied across measures.

A: Chri - ste e - lei son. Chri - ste e - lei - son.

C: Chri - ste e lei - son.

A: Ky - ri - e e - lei son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

C: Ky - ri - e e - lei son.

Plainsong, Tone 8; fauxbourdon Janet Hall. ©1980 The Church Pension Fund. Used by permission.

*Sung at Mount Olive on the First Sunday of Advent, year B, December 3, 2017.
Kyrie led by the Youth Choir.*

Word

GREETING

- ☐ 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.**

HYMN: *ELW 239, "Hark, the Glad Sound!"*

Sung at Mount Olive on the Third Sunday of Advent, year A, December 15, 2019.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; reader – Rob Ruff, lector

- ¹ 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 brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
- ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,

and the day of vengeance of our God;
 to comfort all who mourn;
³ 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.
⁴ 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.
⁸ 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.
⁹ 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.
¹⁰ 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.
¹¹ 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.

PSALMODY: Psalm 126 (*sing along with the leaders; the tone is printed in the video*)

¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion, * then were we like | those who dream.
²Then was our mouth | filled with laughter, * and our tongue with | shouts of joy.
³Then they said a- | mong the nations, * “The LORD has done great | things for them.”
⁴The LORD has done great | things for us, * and we are | glad indeed.
⁵Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD, * like the watercourses | of the Negeb.
⁶Those who | sowed with tears * will reap with | songs of joy.
⁷Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed, * will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

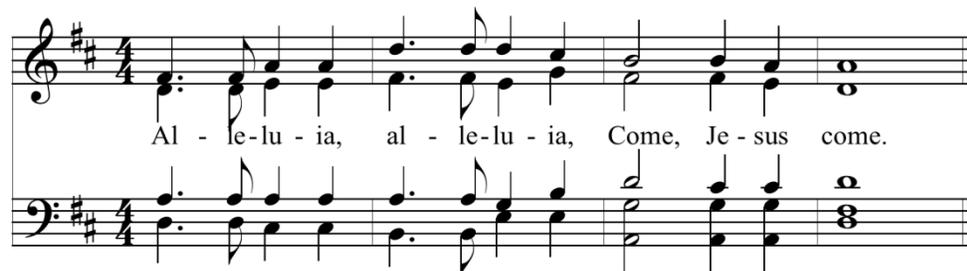
Recorded on Wednesday, December 9, 2020; Singers of the Youth Choir; Tricia Van Ee, soprano.

SECOND READING: I Thessalonians 5:16-24; reader – Lora Dundek, assisting minister

Paul writes: ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil.

²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Sung before and after the reading*



Sung at Mount Olive on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, year B, December 24, 2017.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jewish authorities sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ” as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

SERMON

God’s Garden

Vicar Andrea Bonneville

Silence for reflection.

HYMN: ELW 726, “Light Dawns on a Weary World”

Sung at Mount Olive on Reformation Sunday, year B, October 28, 2018.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, Lora Dundek, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. (Our weekly prayer list is on the last page.) Response: **Hear our prayer.***

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ’s peace.*

OFFERING

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. *The Olive Branch* has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

OFFERTORY "Sweet Coming"



Sweet com-ing for which we long: soft com-ing of star-voiced Child; still
com-ing in fra-grant meal; swift com-ing for won-drous weal. Sure
com-ing, both hope and trial; soon com-ing, our wist-ful song.

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Sung at Mount Olive on the Second Sunday of Advent, year C, December 6, 2015.

Sending

LORD'S PRAYER *Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: Amen*

HYMN: ELW 248, "People, Look East"

Sung at Mount Olive at the Advent Procession Service, December 3, 2017.

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

Go in peace to love and serve as Christ.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Improvisation

Recorded on Tuesday, December 8, 2020.



In Our Prayers

- Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Charlotte Erlandson; JoAnn Norheim; Mary Lee; Elizabeth Beissel, Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Leanna Kloempken; Kandi Jo Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; Christine Walberg; Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Jodi Royce, daughter of Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; Kjell Thompson, relative of Nancy Anderson; Tommie and Susie Hunter, Danna Nelson, Jacques, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Randy Caverly and Nancy Stelling, nephew and friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Klarrisa Ramirez, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Susan Bary, friend of Judy Graves; Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister; Lynn Kernkamp, friend of Peggy Hoeft; Tami Husinga, relative of Wes Husinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Donald Johnson, father of Nicholas Johnson; Nicole Sanders, Ann Clark, James Alexander, and Peter & Faye Kaliher, daughter and friends of Mary Rose Kaliher;

Danielle Pitzen, friend of Ellen Kormanik; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linqvist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Janet Freeburg, friend of Lisa Nordeen; Michael Waechter, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Jay Heffern, friend of Gary Pagel; Jerry Baack and Todd Erickson, friends of Jean & Doug Parish; Melissa Suchor, niece of Mike Rader; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesh Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; Doug Erhard, nephew of Evelyn Royce; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; Norlene Bateman, aunt of Ted Thompson; Jennifer Kobylinski, cousin of Kathy Thurston; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Weichman, Levi Boswell, son and nephew of Grace Wiechman; BJ Wilkes, Joshua Wilkes, LaTrell Wilkes and Julius Underwood, and Lonnell Wilkes, son, nephews, grandson and brother of James Wilkes; Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Patrick Clark, Annie Hose-Ryan, Marcia Van Gorden, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Anne-Marie Lundberg, cousin of Eric Zander; Judy Bonnes, Tommie & Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive.

- **At the death of:** Linda Stoner, mother-in-law of Seth Crosby (and for the Crosby family: Seth, Megan, and Sophia).
- **For those celebrating their baptism anniversaries this week:** Lisa Ruff, James P. Berka, Kevin Vasquez, Reid Peterson, Cletius Puhmann, Bruce Wagner, James E. Berka, Timothy Lindholm, and Hollan Peterson.
- **Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world** who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.
- **Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.
- **We remember the saints who have gone before us:**

December 13: *St. Lucy, martyr, died 304* – Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means “light”) originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

December 14: *St. John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591* – John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.