

St. Matthew 11:4

“And Jesus answered them “Go and tell John what you hear and see.”



3rd Sunday in Advent

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 11, 2022

Prelude

*The Processional Hymn *Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel* (ELW) No. 257

*The Confession and Forgiveness (ELW) page 94

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

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*The Apostolic Greeting (ELW) page 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*The Kyrie (*sung response*) (ELW) page 138

P:, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

*The Hymn of Praise *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* (ELW) No. 254

*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray

C: Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and 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. Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

(After the Old Testament Lesson is announced, the Maust Family will light the first three candles on the Advent Wreath as the congregation sings verse 1, 2 & 3 of Hymn No. 240.)

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 146

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**²Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,
for there is no help in them.**

³When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.

**⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the LORD their God;**

⁵Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps His promise forever;

**⁶Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.**

⁷The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

**⁸The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger;
He sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

⁹The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

James 5:7-11

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

* The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-15

C: Glory to You, O Lord. (*sung after announcement of the Gospel*)

C: Praise to You, O Christ. (*sung after conclusion of the Gospel*)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

*The Hymn of the Day

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

(ELW) No. 249

*The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit He became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

*The Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

(SBH) No. 188

*The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Announcements

*The Benediction (*sung response*)

C: Amen, Amen, Amen.

*The Recessional Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

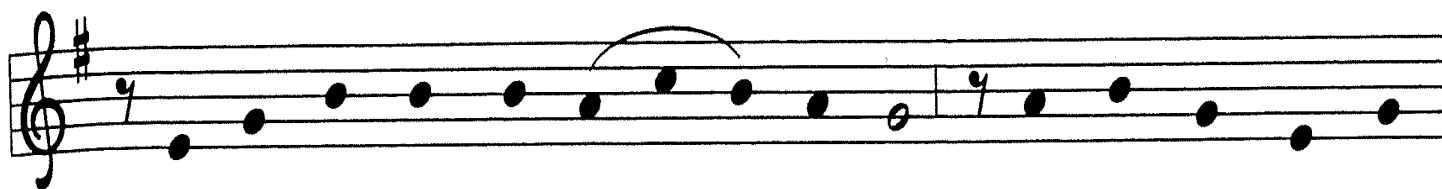
(ELW) No. 244

*The Dismissal (*response*)

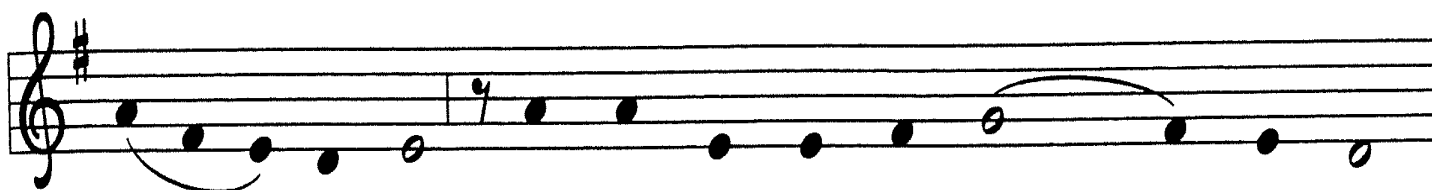
C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na - tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 240



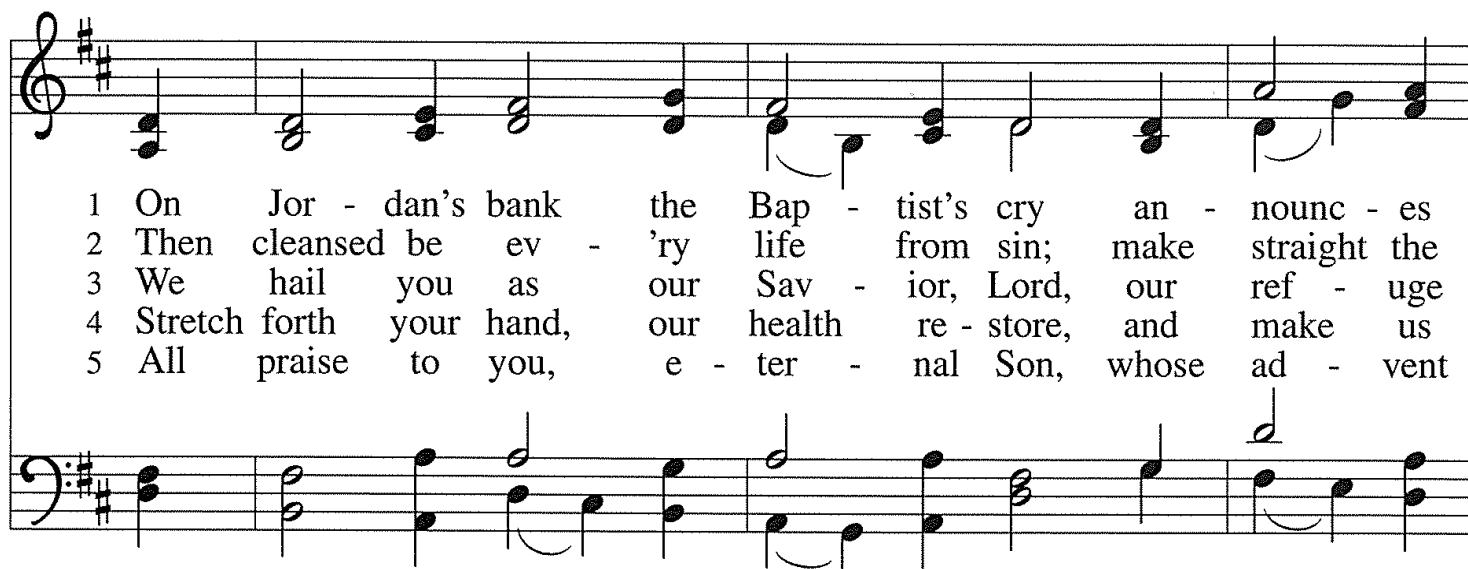
- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



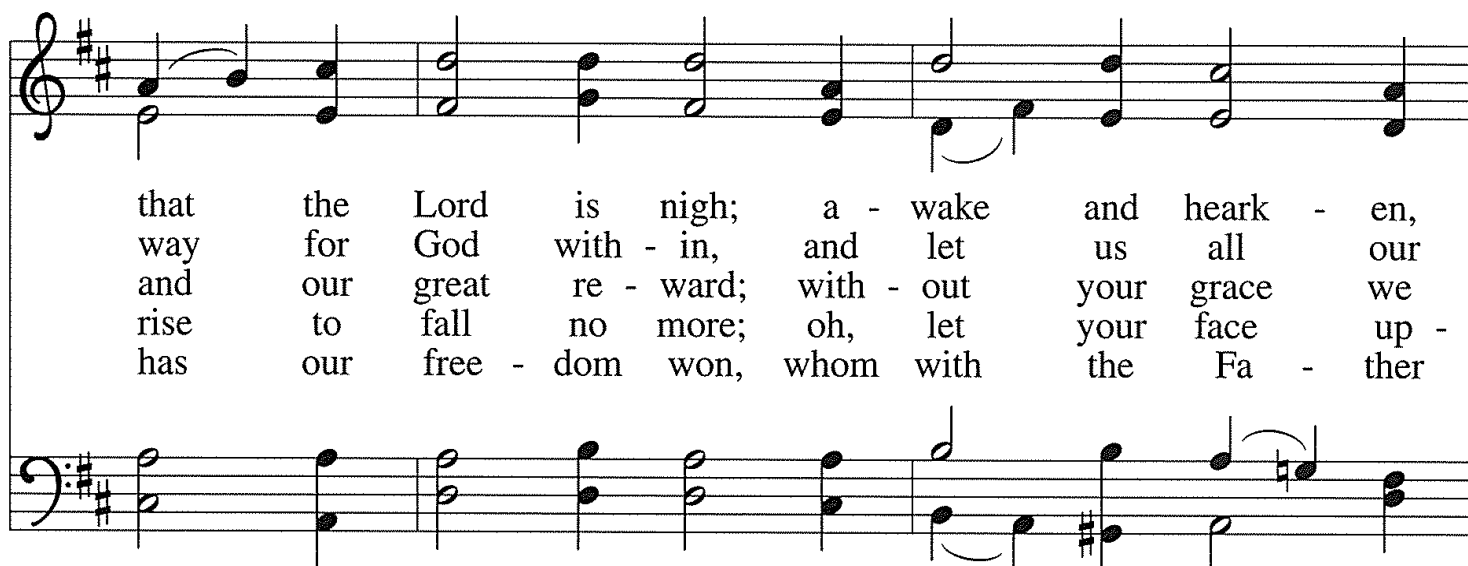
He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

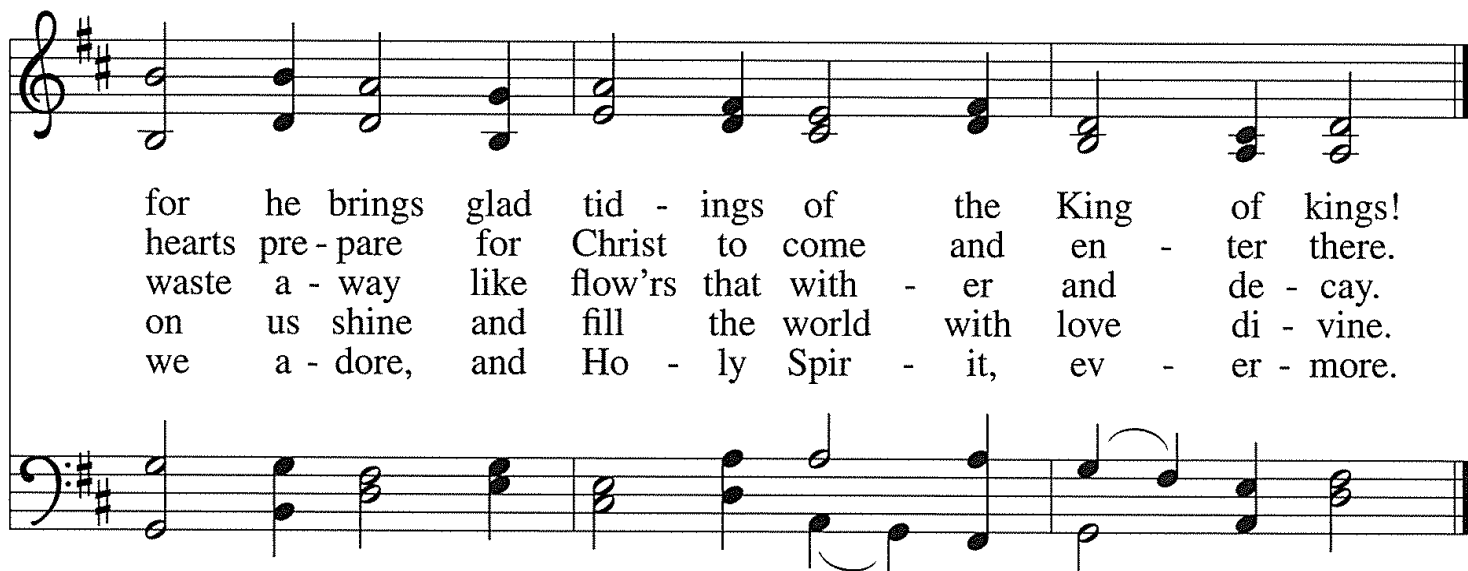
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1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in a key with three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right".

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

The second system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your".

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

The third system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -".

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

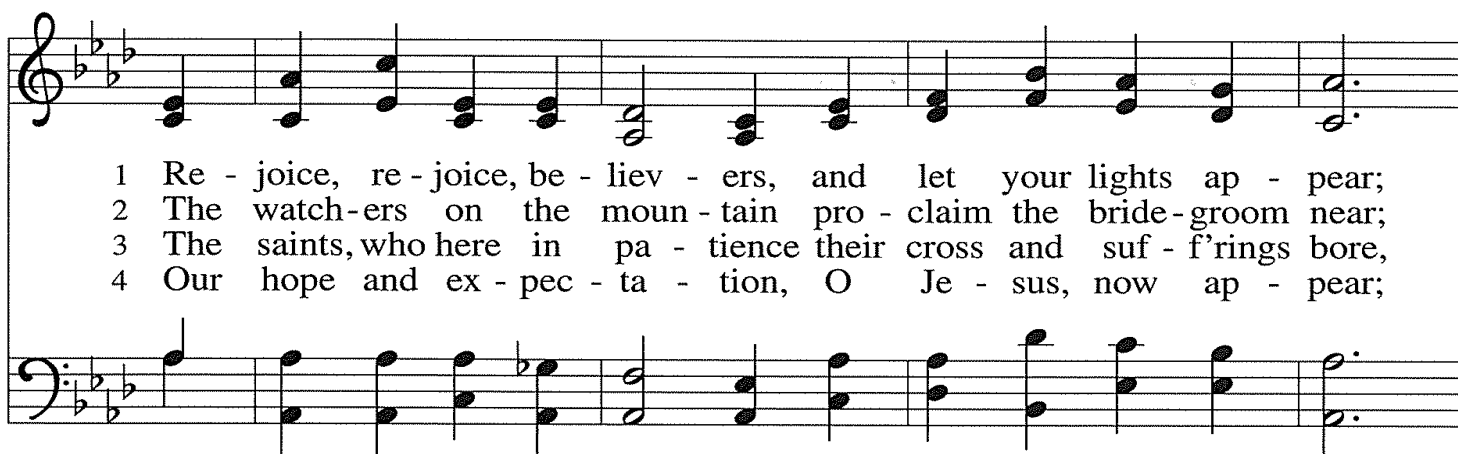
The fourth system continues the melody. The lyrics are: "store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,".

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

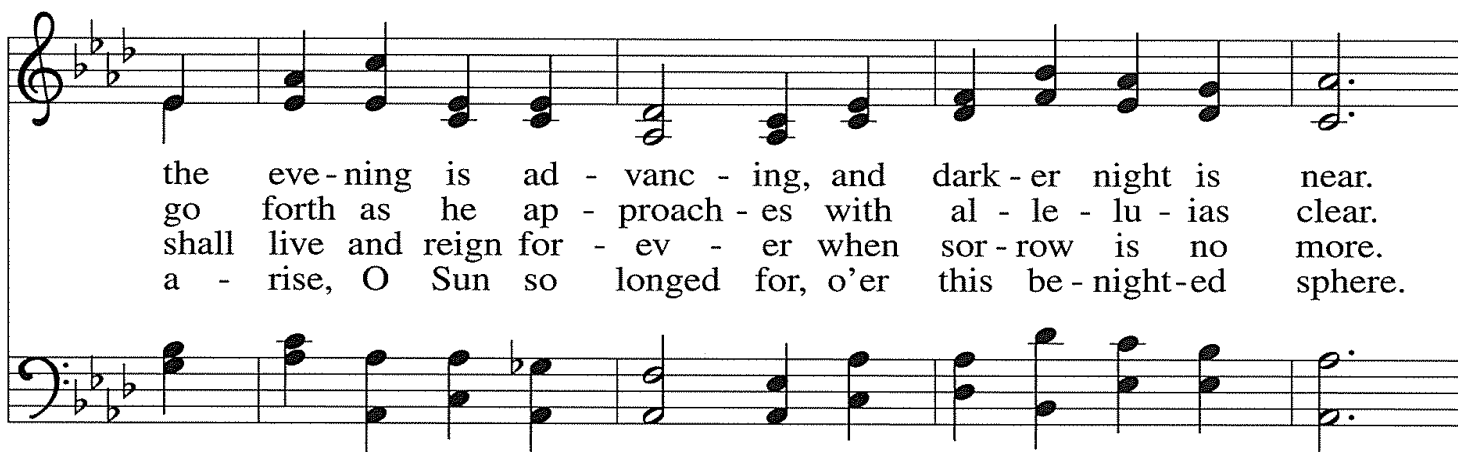
The fifth system concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.".

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

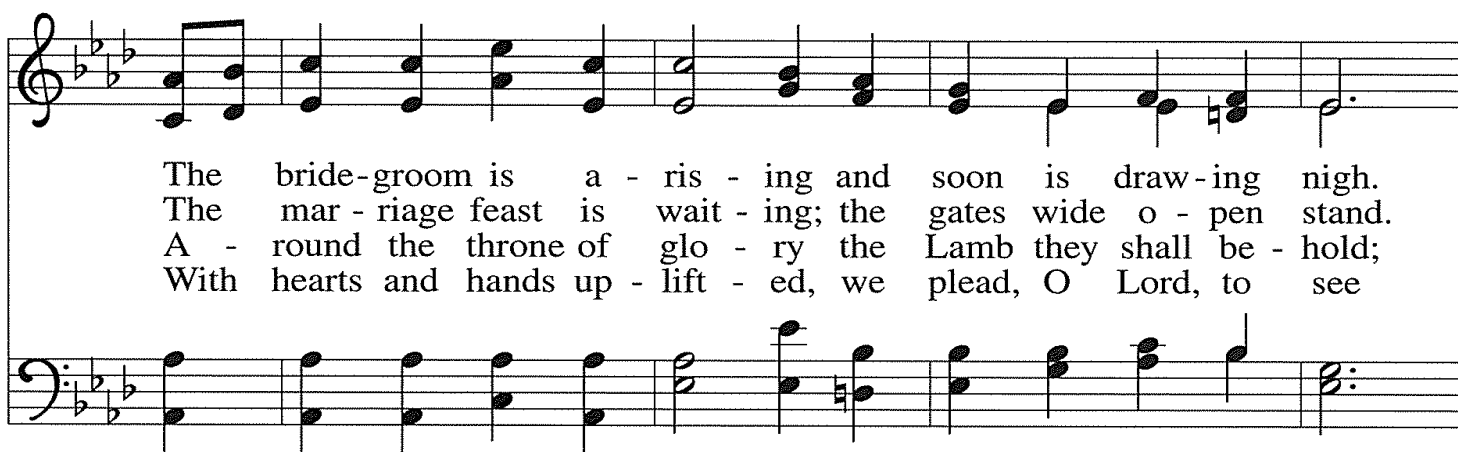
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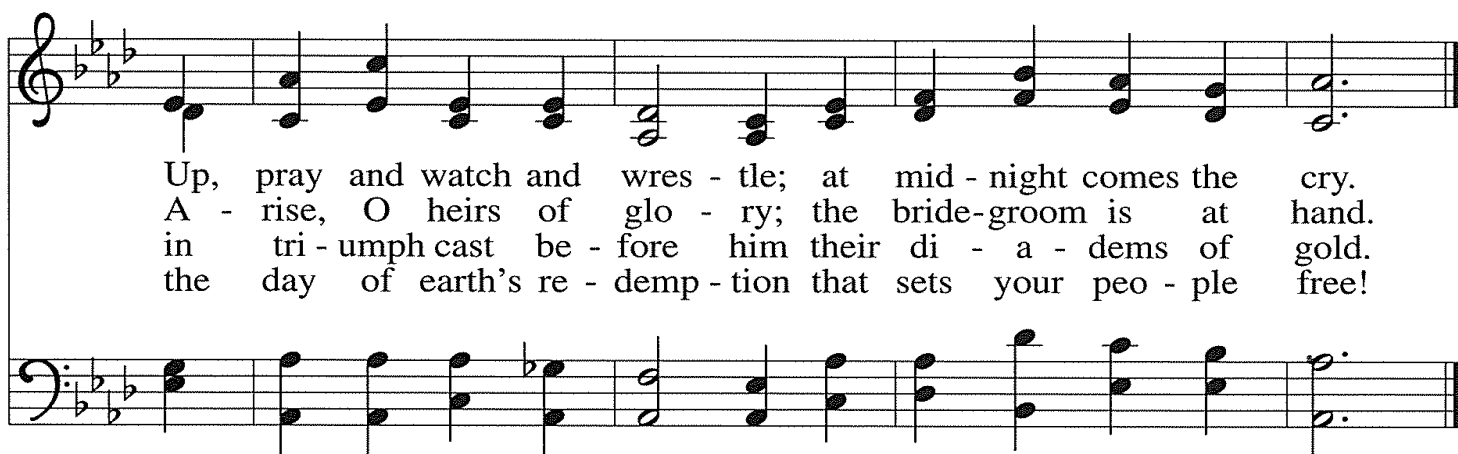
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

First Lutheran Church

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revrob@flcwash.church

Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

The Flowers on the Chancel are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Helen Ulanich on the special day God brought her into the world. Love always, Jeff.

The Lay Reader is Lisa Maust.

Acolytes are Elijah Clark and Lilah Clark.

Counters/Greeters today are J. Black and L. Coleman.

Welcome to our Visitors! The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church? Please contact Pastor Grewe.

Nursery: We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs of infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

Bell Choir Practice on Monday at 6 PM.

The Flower Chart for 2022 is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2022. Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2022. Please sign up.

Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia. Please consider this as a call to help others in need.

Please pray for those in need of healing:

Janet Burke, Maureen Curry, Eveline Reihner, Rocky and Carol, Shari Kienzle, Chiquita, Stacy Carroll, Billie Sue Serbak, Susan Westott, Fred Dupas, baby Isaac Christian, Allan Zimmerman, the Pollana family, Amy Verderber, Sylvia Sunstrum, Kevin Ryan, baby Ryan, Dan, Fritz Group, Amy, Lucy & Dave Mehaffey, Jessi, Bill Hisiro, Richard, Ruby Rogers, Klaus Behrens, Joanne Reck, Bill Stewart, Morgan, Sharon Fritz, baby Matthew, Tim & Karen Edwards, Tom Liam, Gary, Daniel, Judy Dombrowsky, Emily Buchleitner, Jean Erdmann, Greg Mason, Alexandra Perry, Lu Mayne, Pat, Delores Stebella, Jerry Vitteck, Chaz Sands, Jason, Austin, Rich, Tonnia, Barbara Morton, Rev. Phil Gagnon, Jacob, Lindsay, Maxine Banko, Pastor Rob and Kimberly Grewe, Brooke, Ellen, Roderick Cochrane, Jacob Orr, USN, Jammie, Roger, John Bartanus, Ferdinand Grewe, Helen Swank, and Diane Fisher.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

Church Offering Change: In order to keep everyone safe we have changed how we collect the Sunday Offering. We do not have our ushers pass the plates around. Instead, we have one offering plate located by the last pew and one by the choir loft. Please place your offering in one of those plates. Feel free to place your offering in the plates during our Offertory if you did not do so on the way in.

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Third Sunday of Advent – December 11, 2022

“And Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them.’”

– Matthew 11:4-5 -

These verses from Matthew 11 find John the baptizer in prison. His crime? He spoke the truth, albeit in a rather boisterous manner. Nevertheless, John spoke the truth about sin, repentance, and Jesus Christ. And now he's imprisoned for it, and his days are numbered. John knew that Jesus is the Messiah and that he had come to save the world. But now that he's behind prison walls, maybe he's second-guessing if it really is the Messiah that is among them. Maybe he's just not sure. We call that “doubt.” Certainly we all have doubts about God and his presence in our lives. It's apart of our human sinfulness. So John sends a couple of his followers to go find Jesus and ask him if he is the Messiah-- the one they have eagerly been waiting to arrive.

Last week we witnessed John the baptizer pointing us in the direction of Christ. This week, it appears the tables are turned a bit. Jesus encounters John's followers, and Jesus sends them back to John with a message of what they themselves have seen and heard, what they have witnessed with their very own eyes and ears. Jesus responds with Scripture, verses from the prophet Isaiah (see Isaiah 35:5-6). And so John's messengers return to him with words from Isaiah, sent from Jesus, the Messiah himself. John's messengers serve as preachers for John! John needed to hear and be reminded that Jesus was indeed among them. “Go and tell,” Jesus urges. “Go and tell John what you have seen and what you have heard.”

We, too, are encouraged to “go and tell” others about the good news of Jesus Christ. We are called to serve as witnesses of God's goodness and proclaim forgiveness of sin, life everlasting, and salvation with all who will hear and listen. That's a big job for us, but it's an important job. God uses us to bring his presence to others. Prayer: Gracious God, use us as your instruments to bring the gospel to a world so desperately in need. We give you thanks for all who have and continue to bring your Word to all people. In Jesus' name. Amen.

