

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others



THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

17 December 2023, 10:15 am



AS WE GATHER

In our Advent preparations today, John the apostle and evangelist adds his testimony along with John the Baptist, holding before us the joy of Jesus as the light who gives to all who receive Him and believe in His name the right to become children of God. Because of our Lord's continual supply of grace by His Word and Sacraments, we are enabled with Him to "greatly rejoice in the Lord"; for by His Spirit of righteousness we lead lives of holiness of faith. This holiness continually rejoices in the Lord, prays, and give thanks in all circumstances. With John the apostle and John the Baptist, we rejoice, always prepared by faith to welcome and worship our Lord and Savior, who comes to us daily with healing and deliverance.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC and CANDLE LIGHTING

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING SONGS

Blessèd Be Your name

Matt Redman, Beth Redman

Blessèd be your name in the land that is plentiful,
Where your streams of abundance flow, Blessèd be your name.
Blessèd be your name when I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness, Blessèd be your name.

Chorus

Every blessing you pour out I'll turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord, still I will say,
"Blessèd be the name of the Lord, Blessèd be your name.
Blessèd be the name of the Lord, Blessèd be your glorious name."

Blessèd be your name when the Sun's shining down on me,
When the world's all as it should be, Blessèd be your name.

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

Blessèd Be Your Name on the road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering, Blessèd be your name. **Chorus**

Bridge

You give and take away
You give and take away
My Heart will choose to stay.
Lord, blessèd be your name. **Chorus**

Blessèd be the name of the Lord, Blessèd be your name.
Blessèd be the name of the Lord, Blessèd be your glorious name.

Bridge

You give and take away
You give and take away
My Heart will choose to stay.
Lord, blessèd be your name.

©2002, ThankYou Music; Used by permission, CCLI #120161

Come Into His Presence

Lynn Baird

Come into His presence with thanksgiving in your heart
and give Him praise, and give Him praise;
Come into His presence with thanksgiving in your heart,
your voices raise, your voices raise.
Give glory and honor and power unto Him,
Jesus, the name above all names.

©1983 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; used by permission; CCLI #120161

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

OPENING SENTENCES

*Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all
your heart.*

**The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again
fear evil.**

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

"Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;

He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;

He will exult over you with loud singing.

I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

We worship You, O Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Isaiah 35:10, 42:7; Revelation 3:7

Isaiah wrote, "The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing."

We pray.

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can open:

Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

Three candles are lit on the Advent wreath as a hymn is sung.

ADVENT HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357:1 & 5

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. **Refrain**

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray.

You, Lord Jesus, caused the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, the possessed to be free, the dead to be raised.

By Your death and resurrection, You promise to raise us to new life.

You are the One who alone can answer all our wonderings.

You alone are the Way to abundant life.

Fill us with the joy that comes from You alone

that our lives may radiate Your joy in this broken world;

for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Please refer to the back of your service folder or to the screens overhead.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

"The Year of the Lord's Favor"

Roy Tedsen

EPISTLE READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

"Paul's Final Instructions and Benediction"

Grace Perry

Please stand.

GOSPEL READING

John 1:6-8, 19-28

"The Testimony of John the Baptist"

Pastor Marty

WHAT WE BELIEVE ~ Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life † everlasting. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Jane Goss

(Kindergarten – 4th grade students are excused to attend Children's Church in the ANNEX)

SONG OF THE DAY

The Lion and the Lamb

B. Brown, B. Johnson, L. Moorin

Verse 1

He's coming on the clouds.

Kings and kingdoms will bow down.

And every chain will break

As broken hearts declare His praise.

For who can stop the Lord Almighty.

Chorus

Our God is the Lion,

The Lion of Judah.

He's roaring with power,

And fighting our battles.

And every knee will bow before Him.

Our God is the Lamb,

The Lamb that was slain.

For the sins of the world.

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

His blood breaks the chains.
And every knee will bow before
the Lion and the Lamb.

Every knee will bow before Him.

Verse 2

So open up the gates,
Make way before the King of kings.
The God who comes to save
Is here to set the captives free.
For who can stop the Lord Almighty. **Chorus**

Bridge

Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Who can stop the Lord? **Chorus**

© 2015 Meaux Mercy; Thankyou Music; The Devil Is A Liar! Publishing; Bethel Music Publishing. Used by permission. CCLI #120161

MESSAGE

"Johnny B, the Advent Man"

Pastor Marty Tyler

John 1:6-8

THANKFUL GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support of Grace Ministries.

Our ability to continue to serve you, the Church, and our community is greatly dependent upon the willingness of God's people to give of their time, talents and treasures. Please remember to support the LORD'S Church by regularly sending in your tithes and offerings; by mail, online at www.GraceLutheranCC.com/Giving, or download the *GivePlus* Mobile App. As the Apostle Paul writes, "Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). If you brought your tithe or offering with you today, you may place them in the box marked "I Bring An Offering To The Lord" sitting on the table next to the usher's station at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

Sermon Notes

Focus Scripture Verse(s)

The Law (Shows Our Sin)

The Gospel (Shows Our Salvation)

Main Point:

What Does This Mean for Me?

Application:

How does what I learned help me share God's Good News?

Please stand.

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

OFFERTORY SONG

Rejoice In the Lord Always (Philippians 4:4)

Evelyn Tarner

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice!
Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Again, I say rejoice! **(Repeat)**

©1967 by Sacred Songs; Used by permission; CCLI #120161

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

REPENTANCE AND RENEWAL

I waited patiently for the LORD;

He inclined to me and heard my cry.

He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,

and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

A moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Lord's mercy and forgiveness.

Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.

Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves. Make us truly repentant, that we may receive the holiness of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.

The favor of the Lord is on you! The true light has come. To all who receive Him, He makes to be the children of God. The almighty and merciful God grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I announce to you the forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Holy Communion is a confession of the faith whereby we profess at this altar that our Lord Jesus Christ gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Therefore, any who are not yet instructed, or who are in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are respectfully asked to refrain from partaking in the meal and instead may come to the altar and receive a blessing, or remain in your pew during distribution, and afterwards speak with the pastor.

OPENING RESPONSES

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

Psalms 136

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, because Your mercy attends us all our days. Graciously You provide for all our wants of body and soul. As we live in Advent hope we are assured of the abiding presence of Christ, our King, in our lives and days. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, forevermore praising You and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of Sa -bā - oth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim

Shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest,

Sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes

In the name of the Lord!

*Sabaoth (SAH-bay-oath) is Hebrew for "heavenly hosts."
Hosanna is a Hebrew word of praise meaning "save us now."*

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Mathew 6:9-13

**For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24;
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

John 20:19

Amen.

Please be seated.

MY CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

I REJOICE in Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior.
I REPENT of all my sins in thought, word, and deed.
I RECEIVE Christ's real body and blood, as well as the bread and wine in this Sacrament.
I RELY on our Savior's promise of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation given to me
through this Holy Supper.
I REAFFIRM my oneness with fellow communicants in accepting all of Christ's teaching.
I RESOLVE to live a sanctified life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

Times of Refreshing

Don Harris, Martin Nystrom

Times of refreshing, here in Your presence;
No greater blessing than being with You.
My soul is restored, my mind is renewed;
There's no greater joy, Lord, than being with you. **(Repeat)**

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

You Are My All in All

Dennis Jernigan

You are my strength when I am weak,
you are the treasure that I seek, You are my all in all;
Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool,
You are my all in all.

Chorus

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name;
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame;
rising again, I bless Your name, You are my all in all;
When I fall down, You pick me up, when I am dry, You fill my cup,
You are my all in all; **Chorus**

You are my strength when I am weak,
you are the treasure that I seek, You are my all in all;
Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up, I'd be a fool,
You are my all in all. **Chorus 2X**

©1991 Shepherd's Heart Music, Inc.; Used by permission; CCLI #120161

Your Name

Glenn Packiam, Paul Baloche

As morning dawns and evening fades,
You inspire songs of praise;
That rise from earth to touch Your heart,
And glorify Your Name.

Chorus

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. **Chorus 2X**

© 2006 Integrity Worship Music | Integrity's Hosanna! Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing (IMI)) Used by permission CCLI 120161

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

The Heart Of Worship

Matt Redman

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come;
Longing just to bring something that's of worth
that will bless Your heart.

I'll bring You more than a song,
for a song in itself is not what You have required.
You search much deeper within, through the way things appear;
You're looking into my heart.

Chorus

I'm coming back to the heart of worship,
and it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,
When it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.

King of endless worth, no one could express
how much You deserve.
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, ev'ry single breath.

Chorus

I'm coming back to the heart of worship,
and it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,
When it's all about You, all about You, Jesus.

©1999 ThankYou Music; Used by permission; CCLI #120161

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Gracious Lord, Your Word says to us: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." We joyfully give You thanks for the blessings offered to us in the body and blood of our Savior. May we go forth to witness to others of the wonders He has done! We pray in the name of our coming King, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.***

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

BLESSING TO DEPART

The blessing of our gracious heavenly Father; our loving Lord Jesus, His ✝ Son; and the enlivening Holy Spirit, be with you, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE

JoAnne Runnels

Advent is the season of waiting! As we wait, we have a special job to do. We joyfully get ready for Jesus' arrival by remembering the ministry of John the Baptist, who came as a witness to Christ, the light of the world. John himself was not the light, nor was he the centerpiece of God's plan to save the world; no, John's life was dedicated to preparing the way before the Lord and to get people ready for Jesus coming to the rescue of His people. In many ways, we are invited to be like John. Through our personal witness to Christ in our interpersonal relationships with others, God is working through us so that others will come to know His Son. Our goal is not only to trust in Jesus for ourselves but also to let the world know that He is coming to save them too. And His soon-to-come arrival will be well worth the wait!

- Read and meditate upon the Book of Isaiah chapters 61- 64.
- Wear your Grace Lutheran shirts while out shopping.
- Donate money for the purchase of food items for the Christmas Baskets.
- Be 1 of 5 people needed to purchase 2 dinner hams from Safeway.

SENDING SONG

He Lives

A.H. Ackley

I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today;
I know that he is living, whatever men may say;
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need him he's always near.

Chorus

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, he lives salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

Living in Grace: Loving God & Serving Others

In all the world around me I see his loving care,
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair;
I know that he is leading, through all the stormy blast,
The day of his appearing will come at last. **Chorus**

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The Hope of all who seek him, the Help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind. **Chorus**

©1933 by Homer A Rodeheaver @ Renewed 1961; The Rodeheaver Co. (A div. of Word, Inc) Used by permission; CCLI #120161

*Thank you for worshiping with us today.
Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Grace Fellowship Hall.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1 Copyright © 2022 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from the ESV® *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by *Lutheran Service Builder*, © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.