

Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

Advent Midweek Service #3

**If Participating in the  
Service from Your Vehicle  
Please Tune Your Car Radio to 93.1 FM**

**P R E P A R E Y E**



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## **NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE:**

Our service today will take place in the sanctuary. We ask that you only participate in the service in the sanctuary if you are free of any COVID-19 related symptoms and have not been exposed to anyone with COVID-19. All who participate in the sanctuary are asked to sanitize their hands upon entry, wear a mask for the entirety of the service, and leave at least six feet of lateral space in each pew between groups. Every other row has been marked off for increased distancing between groups.

For those who would prefer to continue to participate in the service from their vehicles, you are able to do so. Please park on the east side of the church building and you will be provided with a bulletin.

- By tuning your car radio to 93.1 FM, you will be able to hear the service taking place inside. Please participate fully in the congregational responses, singing, and prayers!
- In order to register your attendance with us today, please fill out the attendance sheet on the back cover of your bulletin. You will tear this page off and hand it in with the offering. An usher will come to collect the offering and attendance sheets from you during the final hymn.

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### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

Saint Michael's Lutheran Church exists to worship God, love one another, and serve all people according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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# Prepare Ye

## A Series of Special Services for Advent

### Week 3: Praise

## Order of Service

*Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. Psalm 30:4*

### Welcome to Worship

### Invocation and Call to Worship

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

**C** Sing with Moses and the people of Israel, saying—

**P** I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously.

**C** The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

**P** When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, she asked,

**C** Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

**P** Rejoice in the Lord always!

**C** Again I will say, rejoice!

### Hymn

*“Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”*

LSB #375



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the  
2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in  
3 Ja - cob's star in all its splendor Beams with  
4 From the bondage that oppressed us, From sin's



Lord with gladness praising; Loudly sing His love a -  
love our race befriending; In our need His help ex -  
comfort sweet and tender, Forcing Satan to sur -  
fettters that possessed us, From the grief that sore dis -

maz - ing,      Wor - thy      folk      of      Chris - ten - dom.  
 tend - ing,      Saved      us      from      the      wi - ly      foe.  
 ren - der,      Break - ing      all      the      pow'rs      of      hell.  
 tressed us,      We,      the      cap - tives,      now      are      free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
 When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
 And to You we come confessing  
 That Your love has set us free.

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## Confession and Absolution

- P** God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins. For turning away from you, and ignoring your truth and your beauty, Father, forgive us:
- C** **Save us and help us.**
- P** For turning to what is dirty and ugly, beastly and unsightly; Father, forgive us:
- C** **Save us and help us.**
- P** For often approving of what is sinful and dark; Father, forgive us:
- C** **Save us and help us.**
- P** For having no song to sing, no joy in our heart; Father, forgive us:
- C** **Save us and help us.**
- P** For letting ourselves be drawn away from the beauty of the Gospel by temptations in the world around us; Father, forgive us:
- C** **Save us and help us. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!**
- P** The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus! Jesus is the Prince of Peace and his atoning sacrifice, shed blood and third-day victory over death delivers divine peace to all who are penitent and contrite. Rejoice in the Lord always!
- C** **Again I will say, rejoice.**

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Dear Father, thank you for giving joy to Mary, Elizabeth and her son John as they faced overwhelming challenges and difficulties. Give us the same Holy Spirit so that we, with rejoicing hearts, may believe and be used to accomplish

your holy will; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

Exodus 15:1-3

<sup>1</sup>Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, “I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

<sup>2</sup>The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:4-8

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-45

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb

leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn

*“Hark the Glad Sound”*

LSB#349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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## Sermon

Rev. Nate Hill

## Prayers

**P** Gracious Father, we long to live much less of a driven life and much more of a called life. We long to live with less fear and more freedom, less by frenzy and more by faith, with fewer obsessions and with much more adoration of you, the God of all peace. So we heed the words of St. Paul, “Rejoice in the Lord always!”

**C** Again I will say, “Rejoice.”

- P** Gracious Father, forgive the times when you call us forward and we do nothing and make excuses. Instead, enable us to be like Mary as we go forward, always forward, forever forward—marching to the words, “Rejoice in the Lord always!”
- C** **Again I will say, “Rejoice.”**
- P** Gracious Father, for many of us what hinders most is fear. The fear of not being enough and having enough, the fear of losing face and losing control, the fear of missing the mark and missing out. Only your presence with us in Jesus our Lord can keep us from falling into the pit of worry and anxiety. That’s why we decide to, “Rejoice in the Lord always!”
- C** **Again I will say, “Rejoice.”**
- P** Gracious Father, drive out everything in our lives that holds us back from full-hearted and all-out devotion to you. Your Son lived a life of perfect obedience for us as the second Adam, fulfilling everything you require of us. Christ’s resurrection from the dead on the third day is the firstfruits and guarantee that one Day we will be as lovely as you and as loving as you. What a glorious Day that will be! That’s why we say, “Rejoice in the Lord always!”
- C** **Again I will say, “Rejoice.”**
- P** Gracious Father, we place ourselves, these prayers and those we love before your throne of grace, trusting in the powerful and priceless name of Jesus.
- C** **Amen.**

## 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.**

## Benediction

**P** Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

**C** Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.

**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** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

**P** Rejoice in the Lord always!

**C** Again I will say, rejoice.

Closing Hymn      “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

LSB#341

*Those participating in the service from their vehicles will have an usher approach their vehicle during the closing hymn to collect the offering and attendance sheet.*



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the  
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot  
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the  
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing  
is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -  
rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py  
tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -  
ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of  
homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less  
play, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your

va - tion He doth bring; There-fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.  
 all our woe He brings; There-fore the earth is glad and sings.  
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.  
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.

To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide  
 My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
 O enter with Thy grace divine;  
 Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
 Thy Holy Spirit guide us on  
 Until our glorious goal is won.  
 Eternal praise and fame  
 We offer to Thy name.

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## **The Offering**

*The offering will be collected today as you exit the church building. Please consider transitioning to making your regular tithe or offering online at [www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give](http://www.stmichaelswinchester.org/give)*



*Please also fill out the attendance register on the back page of your bulletin, tear it off and place it into the offering basket.*



**SAINT MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ATTENDANCE REGISTRATION**

**DATE** December 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

<b>NAME(S) AND CONTACT INFORMATION*</b>		<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>VISITOR</b>	<b>DESIRES A CALL</b>	<b>COMMUNING TODAY?</b>
<b>NAME(S)</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>				
<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>				
<b>NAME(S)</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>				
<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>				
<b>NAME(S)</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>				
<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>				
<b>NAME(S)</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>				
<b>PHONE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>				

**\*NOTE: VISITORS, PLEASE PROVIDE ALL CONTACT INFORMATION; MEMBERS, UPDATED INFORMATION ONLY**