

Rejoice



New Life Ev. Lutheran Church *Lake Zurich, IL*

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

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Third Sunday of Advent **December 15, 2024**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the lower level of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Before Service Prayer: Dear Father, the time is near for us to commemorate the birth of Your Son, our Savior. We wish to receive Him into our hearts. But heavenly Father, my heart is stained with sin. It is not fit as a home for one so pure and holy. There is pride, doubt, insincerity, false humility, and fleshly desire to want my will and not Yours be done. That is why I come to You and ask that You not only forgive me this uninviting heart, but that You use Your Word to root out all that makes me unfit to be called Your own. Let me look forward, not only to the arrival of the Babe of Bethlehem, but also the arrival of the King of kings as He comes in glory. Amen.

Today's Service: Service of the Word, NPH and "Prepare, Prepare" gathering rite, GIA, reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.

Today's Theme: **A REAL CHRISTMAS RESULTS IN GREAT JOY**

Multiple studies have proven that the holiday season exacerbates mental health issues. For some, the pressure to have "a perfect Christmas" can be overwhelming. For others, their loneliness is amplified. Such people need a real Christmas, one that results in great joy. But joy is not the same thing as happiness. It is infinitely better. Happiness is an emotion. Joyfulness is a condition. Happiness comes from your circumstances. Joyfulness comes from Christ assuring you of His abiding love and your glorious future. Therefore, happiness—"holiday cheer"—is fleeting. Joyfulness is enduring.

The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent "Gaudete," which means "Rejoice!" As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask Christ to empower us to do just that.

Pastor's Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—*The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes our patient anticipation of Christ's coming which draws nearer and nearer.*

P: We light three candles.

C: And we pray for joy.

P: We light three candles.

C: And we look to the day when all prisoners will be free, when all the sick will be healed, and when all the sad will be glad.

P: We rejoice with the angels as they prepare to welcome You into the world.

C: You bring joy to the world, O Lord.

P: We celebrate the good news that You are coming to wipe every tear from our eyes.

C: You bring joy to the world, O Lord.

P: We are happy to say that we believe in You.

C: Come, O Lord, to lighten our hearts and brighten our days. Amen.

Three Advent candles are lit during the Opening Hymn.

Opening Hymn "We Light the Advent Candle" (CWS 702)

**We light the Advent candle and wait for Christ to Come.
With hope, we trust the promise that He will bring us home.
Our hope is in our Savior Who wins for us God's favor.
We wait with growing light till God makes all things right.**

**We light the Advent candle and thank the Lord for rest.
With peace, we know our Jesus has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light till God makes all things right.**

**We light the Advent candle and sing with cheerful heart.
With joy, we spread the message that God would us impart.
Our joy is never ending; the Son to us is sending.
We wait with growing light till God makes all things right.**

PREPARE! PREPARE!

The pastor introduces the refrain, singing it once after an introduction. Then the congregation repeats the refrain after each verse and sings it as indicated, noting that the refrain is sung twice, dropping the ending "Oh," the second time through.

Pre-prepare! Pre-prepare the way of the Lord.

Pre-prepare! Pre-prepare the way of the Lord, oh,

Pre-prepare! Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. The

Lord our God is coming soon. Oh,

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "Pre-prepare! Pre-prepare the way of the Lord." "Pre-prepare! Pre-prepare the way of the Lord, oh," "Pre-prepare! Pre-prepare the way of the Lord. The" "Lord our God is coming soon. Oh,". The score includes various musical notations such as accents, slurs, and a fermata over the final note of the last line.

Soloist: Justice and peace, kindness and truth shall come to the earth. Oh, the Lord our God is coming soon! (Refrain)

Soloist: Sing and rejoice! The Lord is near, I say rejoice! Oh, the Lord our God is coming soon! (Refrain)

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen. (*spoken*)

LORD, HAVE MERCY

P: The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers His grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for His mercy.

P: Lord Jesus, You came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord have mercy. (*congregation echoes the minister by singing*)

Lord, have mer - cy.

The musical notation is a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (quarter).

P: You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ have mercy. *(congregation echoes the minister by singing)*



Christ, have mer - cy.

P: You will come in glory with salvation for Your people. Lord have mercy. *(congregation echoes the minister by singing)*



Lord, have mer - cy.

P: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen *(congregation echoes the minister by singing)*



A - men.

ABSOLUTION

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all Your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. (spoken)



P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord. (CW93 61)



1 "Glo - ry be to God on high!" This is now our joy - ful cry.
2 Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's Son, Sole - be - got - ten, ho - ly One,



Peace to all who live on earth, Grace and fa - vor for new birth.
Born on earth from realms on high, Born true man for us to die,



You we praise and glo - ri - fy, Wor - ship You, O Lord most high.
Lamb of God, You take a - way This world's sin: Grant peace we pray.



Gra - cious Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King, To Your name a - lone we sing:
With the Spir - it, You a - lone Are most high, O God the Son,



Praise the glo - ry of Your name, Now and ev - er - more the same!
And the Fa - ther, God a - bove. Praise we now Your glo - rious love.

Prayer of the Day

P: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of Your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with Your light; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson **Zephaniah 3:14-17** – We can rejoice, because the Lord has saved us and delights in us.

¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion;
shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away your punishment,
He has turned back your enemy.

The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you;
never again will you fear any harm.

¹⁶ On that day
they will say to Jerusalem,

“Do not fear, Zion;
do not let your hands hang limp.

¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.

He will take great delight in you;
in His love He will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.” (NIV 2011)

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!



Refrain

Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord Je - sus,
come. Re - store your peo-ple and bless them.

Psalm Tone

The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men
to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt;
there is no one who does good, not even one.

Refrain

Will evildoers never learn—
those who devour my people and do not call on the LORD?

You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,
but the LORD is their refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Israel rejoice and be glad!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Epistle Lesson **Philippians 4:4-7** – What is the reason for our enduring joy? The Lord is near to us.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (NIV 2011)

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia. This is the one about whom it is written: “I will send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You.” Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel **Luke 3:7-18** – Those who rejoice in the good news of salvation joyfully produce fruits of repentance.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10 "What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

11 John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

13 "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

14 Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?"
He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay."

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. 16 John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But One who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in His hand to clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." 18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them. (NIV 2011)

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day CWS 703 "My Soul in Stillness Waits"

The Sermon

Creedal Hymn

**Creator of all things that are, the tiny atom, mighty star—
"Let there be light!" a voice was heard, the Father's all-creating Word.
That Word made flesh with us to dwell is Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Our voices here combine to praise our God, divine!**

**By God the Holy Ghost conceived, from Mary human form received,
With us He lived, for us He died, by Pontius Pilate crucified.
Raised from the dead victorious, this is Christ Jesus, God with us!
Our many voices, one, sing praise to God the Son!**

**The Spirit of the Lord is sent, active in word and sacrament,
To bind the Church below, above, in cords of sin-forgiving love
Till, raised from death, we e'er shall dwell with Jesus, our Emmanuel.
With Son and Father praise to Spirit now we raise. (CW93 4)**

Gathering of Our Offerings

The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



The Offering Hymn

**In Bethlehem's manger God gave us His gift,
A child to redeem us, our hearts to uplift.
This gift let us cherish, this present so dear,
And praise Jesus' goodness throughout the new year.**

**Our own gifts we lay now before the Christ-child
To worship in wonder the one Undeified.
The richest of treasures would not be enough
To thank Him for giving His own gift of love. *(tune "Away in a Manger)***

Prayer of the Church and Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

Closing Collect

P: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us strong in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us Your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

The Benediction

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, Rejoice.
C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the Son who saved us and shall return to welcome us home, and the Holy Spirit who creates and nourishes the faith that Jesus is the Lord—be with you now and forever.
C: Amen.

Closing Hymn **CW 524 "Rejoice, the Lord is Kings" (CW93 528)**

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Dall

Today—Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible class at 10:45 AM

Preschool Christmas program at 1:30 PM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

Friday—Men's Bible Class at 11:30 AM

Next Sunday—Fourth Sunday of Advent Communion Service at 9:30 AM

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class at 10:45 AM

German Christmas Service at Christ the King in Palatine at 4:30 PM

Confirmation Class at 6:00 PM

Monday—Sunday School Christmas Service rehearsal at 6:30 PM

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP SHEET

A new sign-up sheet has been posted for providing something to eat and drink after the Sunday service. The sheet covers October 2024 through January 2025.

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH EFFORT

Post Card Invitations: Christmas is one of those times of year when folks who don't have a church wish to attend a Christmas Service. New Life invited the entire neighborhood around church to join us using a post card mailing. Start thinking now of people to invite to join you for worship at Christmastime using the postcard found in the bulletin.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of Sunday, December 8th we have received \$83,560 in offerings for the current fiscal year. This places us \$21,788 behind the budget, which is \$2,196 worse than the previous week.

NEW MEMBERS

New Life welcomes into membership Prasanth Perumalla and his daughters Preeticka, Reshma and Abigail. The Perumalla family transfers to New Life from St. Paul's in Round Lake Beach, IL.

SIGN GRANT PROPOSAL

New Life has been trying to get the Antioch Foundation to assist with paying for an update to our church sign. For the second year in a row, the proposal was denied. Thanks to Mike Spangle and Brent Anderson for working on the application.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE CLASS

Today, the Sunday School will learn the Bible story "Jonah," and the adult Bible class will cover John 17, "Jesus prays for His disciples."

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES—

- **Christmas Eve Children's Candlelight Service (Dec. 24) at 6:30 PM**
- **Christmas Day Worship Service (Dec. 25) at 10:30 AM**