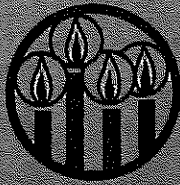




Rejoice. . . .

The Lord is at hand

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-5

**About the Cover**

One day, like the bright morning light that breaks through the darkness of night, the Lord's second coming will bring rejoicing. While we do not know the day, the Lord is at hand today. God's Word shines brightly, dispelling the darkness of anxiety and fear and replacing it with rejoicing in what He has accomplished for us in the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord is at hand. Let us rejoice today!

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**Old Testament Reading:****Zephaniah 3:14–20**

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

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

¹⁷The 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.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time 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.

Epistle: Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your

requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:18–28

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

²⁴When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

Confirmation Christmas Service
December 15, 2024 at 10:15
Christmas Service with Holy Communion

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn: *“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”* 380

Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

He is our own righteousness He’s Wonderful Counselor
Granting wisdom, granting grace Showering us with holiness
He’s the Mighty God and Lord Who has come so we’re restored
He’s everlasting Father Maker, Creator, God adored
He’s the heavenly Prince of Peace Glory to our newborn King!

Hail the heav’n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of
Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The Herald angels sing. “Glory to the new-born King!”

Invocation: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit. **C:** *Amen.*

(Seah)

P: He shall be called

C: *Wonderful Counselor*

P: He shall be called

C: *Mighty God*

P: He shall be called

C: *Everlasting Father*

P: He shall be called

C: *Prince of Peace*

(Leigha)

P: He is the Messiah

C: *God Incarnate come into our midst*

P: He is the Christ-Child

C: *The True Son of the Father*

P: He is the Long Promised One

C: *Promised from the time of
“the Fall”!*

P: He is the One True Savior

C: *The only hope for all mankind.*

(Shane)

The Messiah: the long promised One. God the Father placed in motion His plan in the Garden when He promised to Adam and Eve there would be a Savior. He would be able to bring salvation to mankind because God Himself would come into the world and pay the “Only Price” which would remove the condemnation of our sins. Our Messiah was born in a stable, as a Child, the Son of God and the Son of Man.

(Cory)

First Lesson: Isaiah 9: 6 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

First -- He shall be Called: Wonderful Counselor

(Sara)

Our Lord came into this world to fulfill the promise of our heavenly Father. He would be God's true counselor, share God's Holy Word, offer the Father's truth in grace, and would bring comfort through His message of hope and His message of peace.

(Kip)

As our Counselor, He never fails to give perfect advice, have perfect insight, and offer the exact truths we need in order to bring praise and honor to our Father. He is truly wonderful: because we have nothing to fear, nothing in which to be concerned, nothing to question; because He is perfect in every way and is carrying out the Father's Plan of Salvation.

(Gina)

Christmas Collect: *Gracious Father, You sent Your Son into the world that we might be saved. Grant each of us a life which enables us to reflect well the hope that is in our heart and the wonder of what You have given us through Your Son's birth. Guide us daily to witness of our faith in the way we speak, act, and in our treatment of others. Lead us Lord to bring honor to Your Son's name; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.*

C: *Amen.*

Hymn: "O Sing of Christ" 362

(Randi)

The Christ: this is the Lord's title, which separates Him from all others. He was born the Child of Mary, but He was the Christ, the only Savior, the only Son of the Father in heaven, and the only means by which all mankind could be saved. He is both Lord and God and came that we might be His own forever.

(Tom)

Second Lesson: *Psalm 95: 3-7 For the Lord is a mighty God; a mighty King over all the gods. In His hands are the depths of the earth and the mountain peaks belong to Him. The sea is His and He made it and His hands formed the dry ground. Come let us bow down in worship. Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for He is our God and we are the people of His pasture, and the flock under His care.*

Second -- He Shall be Called: Mighty God

(Seah)

Our Lord came into this world as the Mighty God. He was born as a Child, helpless, and dependent on His mother to sustain His life. Yet, He was truly Almighty God, the Creator of the universe. He came into the world as human, in order that, He could carry out the Plan His Father had made. He came as God and man, so He could accomplish all that was needed for us to be saved.

(Shane)

As our Mighty God, He does all things according to His perfect will, and uses His power and might in order to bring all His own His protection, care, and security. He is, and will always be, the

Mighty God who has all things in His hands. He will remain the Mighty God; so we have nothing to doubt or of which to be concerned, because He has completed the Plan which brings everyone His own salvation.

Hymn: *“From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”* 358 vs. 1, 3, 9 TLH

From heaven above to earth I come To bear good news to every home;

Glad tiding of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:

This is the Christ, our God and Lord, Who in all need shall aid afford;

He will Himself your Savior be From all your sins to set you free.

Ah, Lord who hast created all, How weak art Thou, how poor and small,

That Thou does choose Thine infant bed Where humble cattle lately fed.

His name is: Jesus!

(Kip)

Infant King: He came as the King of Israel. He came as the everlasting King. He came to rule His people in grace and provide them His protection, His forgiveness, and His life. He would protect them from evil and defeat all the forces of Hell.

He came to lead His own into the comfort of being in the presence of His Father in heaven forever.

(Sara)

Third Lesson: *Revelations 1:8* “I Am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “Who is and Who was, and Who is to come, the Almighty.”

Third-- He Shall Be Called: Everlasting Father

(Randi)

Our Lord came into this world as Everlasting Father, this is bold statement. He came into this world as the Triune God. He was not simply a “promised child”, but He was God in the midst of His people and was bringing to them the only hope by which they could be saved.

(Tom)

As our Everlasting Father, He is making it clear everything was being done according to His Plan and Will. All things were set in motion, so He could have the price paid by shedding His blood. He made sure that nothing would stop the Plan from being done as He desired. All things were going to work in accordance to His perfect plan and bring salvation to all His own.

Hymn: “*Joy to the World*” 387

Joy to the world the Lord is come Let earth receive her king.
Let every heart prepare Him room And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven and heaven and
nature sing!

Joy to the world the Savior reigns Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the
sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations
prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love And wonders, wonders of His love.

(Riley)

Fourth Lesson: *Colossians 2: 9* “*For in Him, dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.*”

(Cory)

“**The Godhead**” (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) lying in the manger. The true and only God came to earth as the Child. Paul says, “The Godhead” dwelt bodily in Jesus Christ, declaring Jesus God; and making it clear, though the Son, He was Almighty God who became man.