

Holy Eucharist

December 17, 2023

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777

Passcode: 782611

Advent 3B

Prelude

On this third Sunday of Advent, we watch and wait. We wait for God to send divine love and light into our dark world soon, and very soon. We prepare ourselves to greet that day of joy and delight.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.



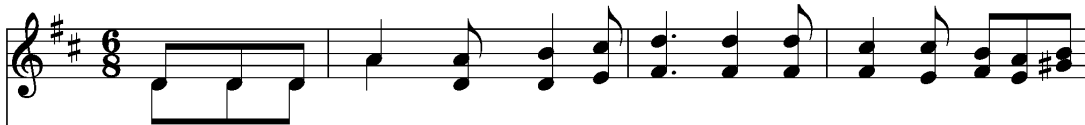
All stand as they are able

Opening Hymn

WLP 724

People, look East

to be sung with a dancing rhythm!



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum - ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
 2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
 4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
 5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

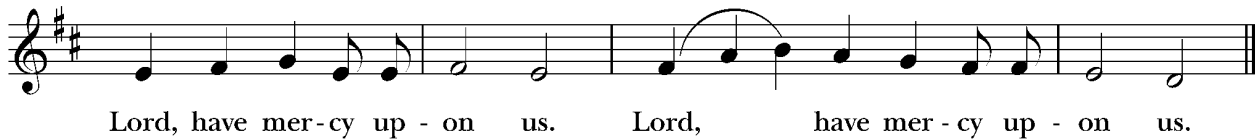
The Presider begins the Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The following is sung, all standing as they are able

Kyrie: Lord, have mercy **Hymnal S-91**

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
 on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
I have been sent to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸For I, the LORD, love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,

and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for the Holy One has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
and has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated

Psalm 126

¹**When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, ***
then were we like those who dream.
²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, ***
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
³**Then they said among the nations, ***
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
⁴**The LORD has done great things for us, ***
and we are glad indeed.
⁵**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, ***
like the watercourses of the Negev.
⁶**Those who sowed with tears ***
will reap with songs of joy.
⁷**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, ***
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Thessalonika.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 444

Blessed be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
2 He from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
3 On pri - son - ers of dark-ness the sun be - gins to rise,



he vis - its and re - deems us, he grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sa - vior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The pro - phets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes his her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
He guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill his prom - ise and bring his peo - ple peace.____
the pro - phet of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of Day.____
O bless our God and Sa - vior, with songs that nev - er cease.____

Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said,



“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”
as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

Bill Stech

All then stand as they are able.

Nicene Creed

Presider Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

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

All remain standing as they are able.

Prayers of the People

Presider Brothers and sisters, children of God, as witnesses to your light and truth, we come to the Holy One in prayer.

Intercessor Infuse the heart of your church with your Spirit and focus it on your mission. Renew your people and their leaders as they serve your purpose. Remind us continually whose we are.

Silence is kept.

Turn the hearts and actions of all the world's leaders to justice and peace. We pray for Joseph, our president; Gretchen, our Governor, and the Congress and courts of this land. May there be peace on all the earth.

Silence is kept.

Holy One, you are ruler of all things in heaven and earth. Hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all a burning heart for our congregation, and all things necessary for our common life, and the embrace of the ministries with which you have gifted everyone. Bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church.

Silence is kept

Holy One, we rely on, and give thanks for, your divine wisdom, knowledge and understanding. We know that, because of your Holy Spirit's guidance, we can make the right decisions in line with your will and purpose for this parish. We ask for the Spirit of discernment, that we each may be enabled to make those decisions that will lead us to the serving of your church in this place.

Open our eyes to what is going on around us. You give us blessings, more than we can count. We give you thanks [especially for _____ and any other blessings you wish to name now]. Open our hearts to our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Move us to share our blessings in love when they are in need, and to stand up for them when they are oppressed. We pray for those suffering from natural disasters, from unjust economies, from hunger and want.

Silence is kept.

We know people around us who are suffering from anxiety, scarcity, illness, and loneliness. Some of them we know, and most are unknown to us. We ask that you assure them of your

presence and sustain them with your grace. We pray for [_____] and any others you wish to name now].

Silence is kept.

Our hearts break when someone whom we love dies. Today we mourn for [_____, any others you wish to name now, and] all the recently departed. May we be a comfort as we walk with their grieving loved ones.

Silence is kept.

Presider Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; for this we pray. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Presider says to the people

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." *Mark 12:29-31*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbors.

All remain standing, or kneel, as they are able.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that 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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

A Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, + forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

All then stand as they are able.

Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and the People may offer God's peace to one another in the name of the Lord.

The People then are seated.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Presider.

The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The people remain standing as they are able

Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider proceeds

It is indeed right to give you thanks and praise, Lord God, for you have clothed us with the garments of salvation, and covered us with the robe of righteousness.

In baptism you forgive our sins, part the waters of our liberation, and bring us to the safe shore of everlasting life.

In faithfulness you keep our spirit and soul and body sound and blameless until the coming of your Son Jesus Christ.

In his death you dismantle the power of death, and in his resurrection you raise up the joy of everlasting life.

And so we greatly rejoice and exult with our whole being in the sanctified company of angels and archangels of heaven, joining the unending hymn.

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people continue to stand, or kneel, as they are able.

The Presider continues

Abiding God, you made an everlasting covenant with your people, and when that covenant was jeopardized you sent your Son, Jesus.

In bread and wine he reenacted your Passover promises, and became the Lamb of God that takes away our sin.

Send now your Holy Spirit † on us that we may hold fast to what is good and live in the freedom of being your children.

Send your Spirit † upon this bread and this cup, that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;

who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

God of justice, send your Spirit upon your people in their wilderness.

Bring good news to the oppressed and all who live with the chains of debt.

Bind up the brokenhearted and any who languish in the slavery of another's scheming or the exile of their own folly.

Proclaim liberty to the captives and those who live under the shadow of fear at home, at work, or in their neighborhood.

Announce release to the prisoners and to all who are incarcerated by their own body or the travails of their own mind.

Usher in the year of your favor and deliver your people from sin and guilt and addiction and shame.

Provide for those who mourn that they may have a garland instead of ashes, and the oil of gladness instead of mourning.

Show us your face, everlasting God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

The Presider then continues

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Presider says

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

These are the Gifts of God.

And we are the people of God.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Remaining seated, the following is sung after the table has been cleared.

Communion Hymn

Hymnal 324

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

1 Let all mo - rtal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man

mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood

Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
he will give to all the faith - ful

our full hom - age to de - mand.
his own self for heaven - ly food.

The Presider then says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

A priest blesses the people, saying

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of the Holy One who made you,
+Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

Concluding Hymn

Hymnal 539

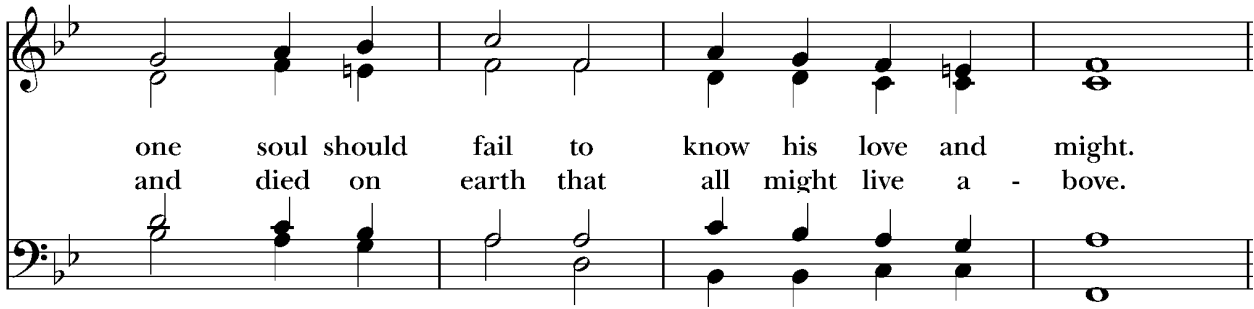
O Zion, haste

O Zi - on, haste, thy mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
Pro - claim to ev - ery peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion

to tell to all the world that God is Light;
that God, in whom they live and move, is Love:

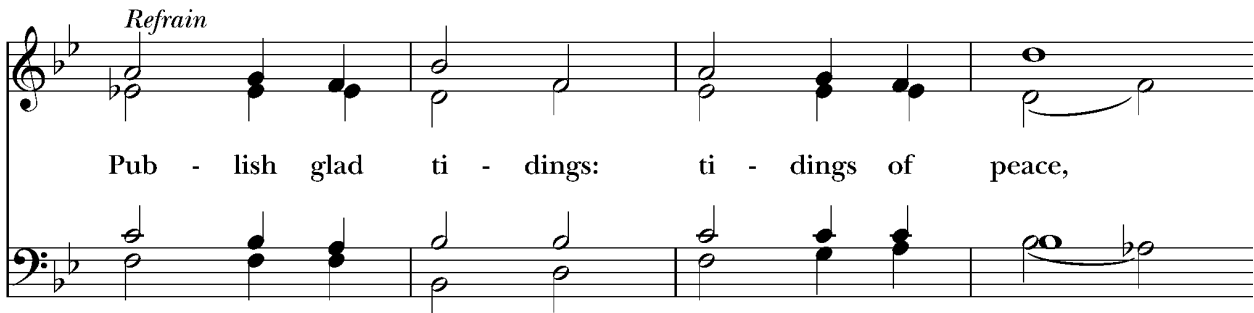
that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion,

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system ends with a double bar line. The second system ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note. The third system ends with a double bar line.

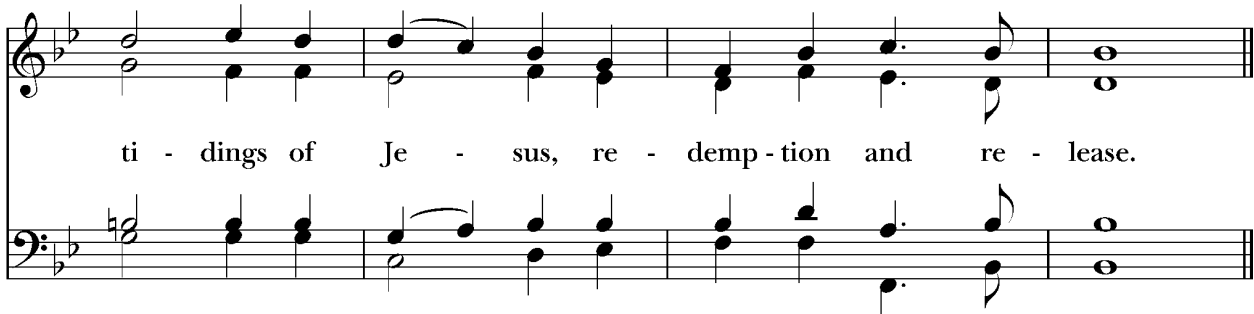


one and soul should fail to know his love and might.
and died on earth that all might live a - bove.

Refrain



Pub - lish glad ti - dings: ti - dings of peace,



ti - dings of Je - sus, re - demp - tion and re - lease.

Dismissal

Minister And now, my brothers and sisters, I bid you go out as did St Barnabas, the Encourager. Go out with joy and in peace, to love and serve our Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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This week in prayer

Please remember these persons and congregations in your prayers this week:

Our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises (TEC); Elizabeth, Donald and Craig (ELCA)
and for all priests, deacons, Ministry Teams, and those in formation

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

December 17 The Scottish Episcopal Church

Diocese of Michigan Cycle of Prayer:

December 17 St Matthew's & St Joseph's, Detroit; St Bartholomew, San Cristobal, St Mary

the Virgin, Montillano, DR

St Barnabas Cycle of Prayer: David, Marion, Jan V, Joseph

and our continuing prayers for: Bob, Carlos, Jim M, Mardi, Pat, Robert, Selenah

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Faith in Action provides leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive at the church is TODAY, December 17**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

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Upcoming Commemorations

- December 17 William Lloyd Garrison, 1879, and Maria Stewart, 1879, Prophetic Witnesses
- 19 Lillian Trasher: Missionary in Egypt, 1961
- 20 Katerina von Bora, Church Reformer, 1552
- 21 Thomas the Apostle
- 22 Henry Budd: Priest, 1875; and,
Charlotte Digges (Lottie) Moon: Missionary in China, 1912

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Advent 3B December 17, 2023

During Advent and Christmas, we will be using study prompts and other activities tied to the sermon for the week. Read the sermon aloud and follow-up with spoken responses to the two questions at the end.

Find our full sermon compilation for individual, small group, or congregational use, *Sermons for Advent and Christmas 2023* at www.sermonsthatwork.org.

Rejoice Always

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

We are already a week away from Christmas, and for good reason, this Sunday is called “Joy Sunday”. This is because of the exhortation given to us by St. Paul at the beginning of the reading from 1 Thessalonians: “Rejoice always.” And how are you today? If you feel some sadness, and today your faces were not ready to smile, it’s time to change your outlook. There is a greater joy flooding our hearts. That is the central message of today, because the celebration of the birth of our Savior is very near and his light shines in the darkness. Nothing can extinguish it. So, in our liturgy this Sunday, we use a pink candle to express the joy we feel for

his coming, tender and fragile as a baby. And this pink candle, together with the other candles, announces the true light of which John the Baptist spoke.

So, the readings speak beautifully of how the promised Messiah is at the door. Let's see. In the first reading from the book of Isaiah, the prophet describes the coming of the Lord as "the oil of gladness instead of mourning," He continues, "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness." That's right, dear siblings, we are made righteous in our Lord, and we are glad because joy comes from him. Therefore, whenever we are conscious of the salvation that our Lord gives us, joy fills our lives. And we are joyful not because of our successes or achievements for the present day, but because God's love is greater than all the pain and suffering that surrounds us. To be Christians is to spread the perfume of joy. Others can sense it and see it, and there is something more than ourselves filling our lives. And perhaps you have heard the famous phrase attributed to St. Francis de Sales: "A sad saint is a sorry saint."

Thus, the Blessed Virgin Mary, in her calling to be the mother of our Lord, received this role with joy amid all the hardships she faced, which is why, in the Magnificat, we hear with joy: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." This exultation of Mary comes from the depths of her being, and thanks to her, the redemptive work of Jesus Christ has been made possible. Now all of us venerate the Mother of God as an example of holiness, faith and joy. She gave us an example of how, amid adversity, rejection, poverty, persecution, all the tears and uncertainty she had to face while carrying her child in her womb, she resolutely embraced the special plan that God had in store for her. Her attitude was an immense joy that endures forever: "From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name."

And we are participants in this happiness. We are blessed to know that God came to meet us as one of us, in the humblest way possible, so that absolutely no one would be excluded. Jesus is the light that illuminates all darkness. John the Baptist was aware of this, which is why he announced, "Make straight the way of the Lord." And what is that way? That way is our minds and hearts. Let us open our own inner doors to meet with Jesus, with his presence, with his life, with the practice of his message.

And what happens next? The same thing that happened to Mary, Paul, John and many, many others, and is reported to us in today's readings: being filled with joy. This is the most evident sign of being happy. If we let our Lord Jesus Christ into our lives, we will feel true and lasting happiness. He himself was immensely happy, and no one has been as intensely happy as he was, and we know very well how he did not have it easy. Neither do we. But still, he was satisfied with what he did on earth and completed his plan of salvation for all, which does not end; it continues to be in progress, eternally. At first it seemed to have failed miserably, but God's plans do not go according to our human logic.

In history, we have read how many have spent their years thinking about happiness. Before Christ's appearance on Earth, Greek philosophers wrote treatises. Aristotle, more than 300 years before the birth of our Lord, said that happiness is the goal sought by every human being, and that desire guides all human actions. And no one seems to hesitate to agree with him.

You may have heard that every year there is a survey that measures the global happiness index. This year's result is already published, and it's up to you to look for the result. Some people want to go and live in the places ranked highly, because they would like to be happier. But there is a much simpler, more attainable, and more profound way to fill all our discontent: Invite Jesus into our lives. He is the endless source of happiness. And this *does not* rule out the

difficulties that make us temporarily unhappy. But with him, we live in immense joy, in joy that elevates our lives with purpose.

Dear brothers and sisters, this is the joy we are waiting for with the Birth of the Christ Child. He is our ultimate reason for existence. When we have God at the center, everything else makes sense. We exist thanks to him, we live in him, and we will go to him. His actions in us are summed up in infinite love, which brings forth good from within us. And his love transforms everything.

Therefore, let us be joyful, because the happiness that comes from God is unquenchable and extends beyond what we can imagine, beyond our limits, beyond what we could ever believe. Let us celebrate with joy this third Sunday of Advent and wait with smiling faces for the miracle of the manger. Amen.

Prompts

1. True and lasting joy can be found by inviting Jesus into our lives. How has your faith brought joy into your life? Can you share a specific experience or moment of joy related to your faith?
2. Where in the Magnificat do you hear Mary’s joy? Is it tempered with fear and/or resolution? Can these feelings co-exist with joy?

This study was written by the Rev. Israel Alexander Portilla Gómez

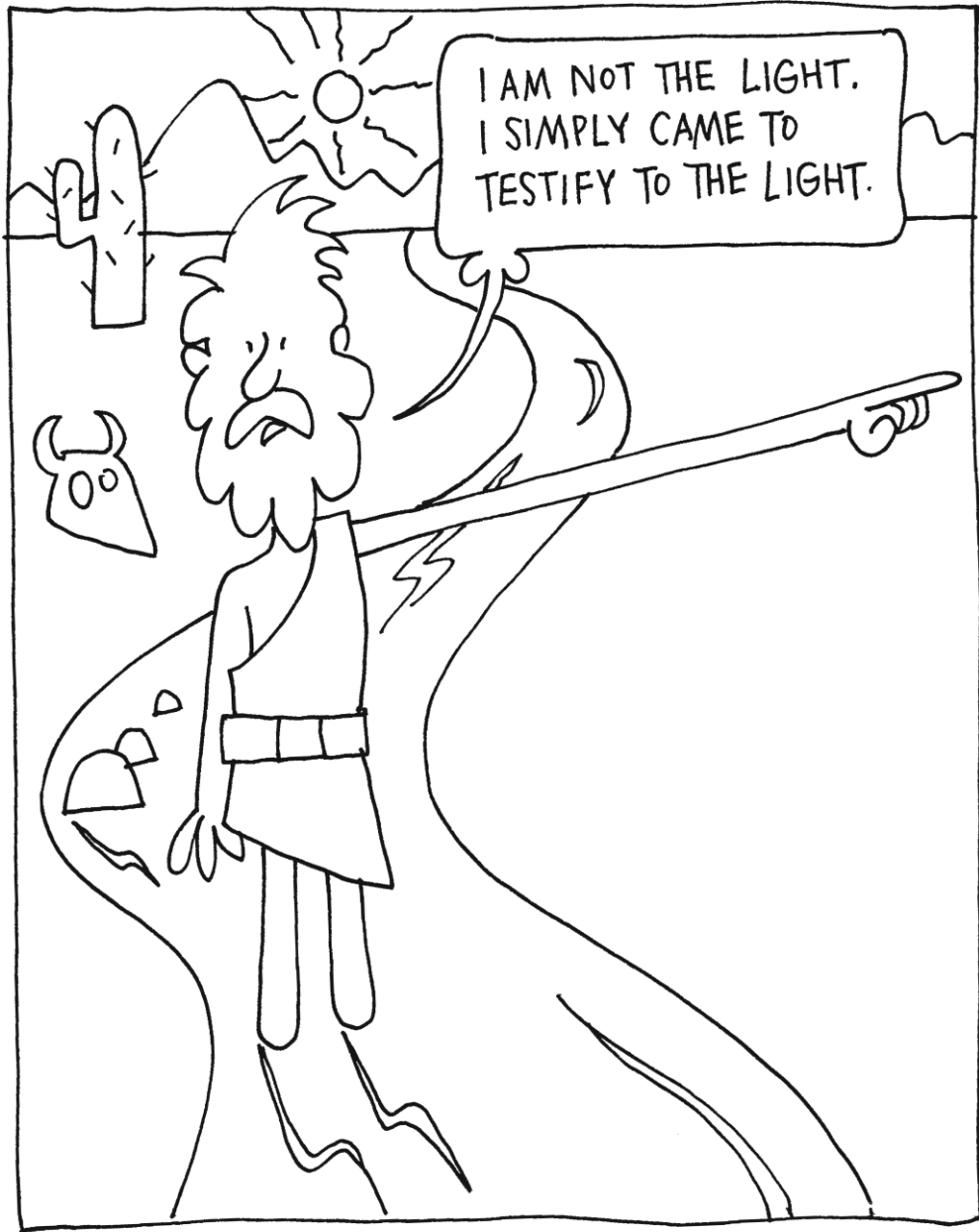
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Eucharistic prayer from Wells, Samuel and Abigail Kocher *Eucharistic prayers*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016, pp.50-51.



Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.



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