



Those whom the LORD
has ransomed will
return and enter
Zion singing,
crowned with
everlasting joy;
they will meet with
joy and gladness,
sorrow and
mourning will flee

Isaiah 35:10

Joy

**The Third Sunday in Advent
December 11, 2022
10:45 a.m.**

As We Gather

Our faces tell a lot about what's going on inside. Some days we might be gloomy. But when we hear truly joyful news, it changes us from the inside, a smile adorns our face, and we join our friends in rejoicing. Isaiah prophesied abundant joy when the Messiah would come, which He did centuries ago. In our resultant joy, we can wait patiently for His return. James encourages in the Epistle: as "the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth." Though our Lord will return as judge, Isaiah promises, "He will come and save you." Now there's great news to put a smile on your face!

Same God

by Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Brandon Lake, Pat Barrett

**I'm calling on the God of Jacob
Whose love endures through generations
I know that you will keep your covenant
I'm calling on the God of Moses
The one who opened up the ocean
I need you now to do the same thing for me**

Chorus

**Oh God my God I need you Oh God my God I need you now
How I need you now Oh Rock oh Rock of ages
I'm standing on your faithfulness**

**I'm calling on the God of Mary
Whose favor rests upon the lowly
I know with You all things are possible
I'm calling on the God of David
Who made a shepherd boy courageous
I may not face Goliath But I've got my own giants**

Chorus (twice)

Bridge

**You heard your children then You hear your children now
You are the same God You are the same God
You answered prayers back then And you will answer now
You are the same God You are the same God**

**You were providing then You are providing now
You are the same God You are the same God
You moved in power then God move in power now
You are the same God You are the same God**

**You were a healer then You are a healer now
You are the same God You are the same God
You were savior then You are a savior
You are the same God You are the same God**

Chorus

Welcome and Greeting

Invocation

Opening Sentences

Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4

People: **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.**

Pastor: I will hope continually and will praise You yet more and more.

People: **My mouth will tell of Your righteous acts, of Your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge.**

Pastor: With the mighty deeds of the Lord God I will come; I will remind them of Your righteousness, Yours alone.

People: **O God, from my youth You have taught me, and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.**

Pastor: So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.

People: **Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.**

Rejoice by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Bryan Bowler, Ben Shive, Skye Peterson

**Rejoice in the Lord now and always
Sing it again we rejoice
Delight in the love He has shown us
Gratefully lift up you voice
His gentleness among us will join our heart with praise
We gather in His goodness a family of grace.**

**Chorus:
With each breath He's given praise the Lord
In these times we live in we will praise the Lord
Throughout ev'ry season I am sure
We have ev'ry reason to praise the Lord**

Rejoice and be anxious for nothing,
Praying for all that you need
Come with a song of thanksgiving
Lay your requests at His feet.
His peace will fall upon us to guard our hearts and minds
In Christ who reigns eternal the Shepherd of our lives Chorus

Oh, we praise the Lord

Rejoice in the Lord now and always
Tell of the good He has done
Worship the Lord to remember
All the joy yet to come
The hope that burns within us the dark cannot destroy
With praise that's never ending we say again rejoice Chorus

Confession and Forgiveness

1 John 1:6-10

Silence for personal reflection and confession

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

People: **Merciful Father, our Lord and King, 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 always made Your kingdom of first importance in our lives. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

forgiven

Behold the Lamb of God

by Andrew Peterson and Laura Story

**We who walk in darkness deep now see the light of morning.
The mighty God, the Prince of Peace, a child to us is born.**

Chorus:

**Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away our sin.
Behold the Lamb of God, the life and light of men.
Behold the Lamb of God, who died and rose again.
Behold the Lamb of God, who comes to take away our sin.**

**Wand'ers in the wilderness, O hear a voice is crying.
Prepare the way, make straight the path.
Your King has come to die. Chorus (twice)**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 35:1–10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.
³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God
will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and
joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Epistle

James 5:7–11

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–15

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷As they went away, 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

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

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force.

¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Nicene Creed

O Come, O Come Emmanuel by John Mason Neale and Kim Walker-Smith

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

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

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death’s dark shadows put to flight Chorus

O come desire of nations bind
In one the hearts of all mankind
Bid thou our sad divisions cease
And be Thyself our King of Peace Chorus

Sermon

Psalm 65 (Hope Has An Answer) by Kip Fox and Michael Middendorf

**God in Zion, You have heard our prayer.
Blessed are Your people, far and near.
All you wounded, weary and alone.
Look, now, our Salvation is made known.**

Chorus

**All of the questions that come in the night.
All of the hours we pray for the light.
Ev'ry longing that wakes with the morn
Hope has an answer. The Savior is born.**

**Through Him, ev'ry mountain finds its peak.
Raging seas fall silent when He speaks.
All things come together by His hand.
Rivers flow and blessings fill these lands. Chorus**

Bridge:

**And on the farthest seas, tales of Your awesome deeds
Will bring the greatest powers to their knees.**

**All of the questions that come in the night.
All of the hours we pray for the light.
Ev'ry longing that wakes with the morn
Hope has an answer.**

**All of the questions that come in the night
All of the hours we pray for the light.
Ev'ry longing that wakes with the morn
Hope has an answer. The Savior born.**

We Lift Our Hearts in Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution Songs

This Is Jesus by Darren Mulligan, Kyle Williams, Drake Kennedy, and Tony Wood

**Night of wonder still and silent heaven's brilliance from above.
Light of glory pierced the darkness mercy pierced my heart with love.
This is Jesus, King of glory, here to rescue from the fall.
Son of God Who comes to save us, Prince of Peace and Lord of all.**

**O the myst'ry, who could fathom? God would leave His holy throne
For a manger, for a sinner, for us all to be His own.
This is Jesus, King of glory, here to rescue from the fall.
Son of God Who comes to save us, Prince of Peace and Lord of all.**

**Rejoice, He is with us. Rejoice, Hope is here.
Rejoice, He is with us. Rejoice, Hope is here. (repeat)**

**This Jesus, King of Glory, here to rescue from the fall.
Son of God Who comes to save us, Prince of Peace and Lord of all.**

**For the hearts so prone to wander for these feet so quick to flee.
God is here and love is reaching for the lost and least of these.**

Agnus Dei/King Of Kings by Brooke Ligertwood, Scott Ligertwood, Jason Ingram

**Hallelujah. Hallelujah, for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah, for the Lord God Almighty reigns.
Hallelujah. Holy! Holy are You Lord God, Almighty.
Worthy is the Lamb! Worthy is the Lamb!
You are holy! Holy are You the Lord, God Almighty
Worthy is the Lamb! Worthy is the Lamb! Amen.**

**In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes**

**To fulfill the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt**

Chorus

**Praise the Father Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings**

**To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross**

**For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died** **Chorus**

**And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death**

**And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored**

**And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint**

**By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me** **Chorus**

Post Communion Prayer

The Blessing

Alive & Breathing by Matt Maher and Elle Limebear

**What holds your heart What stirs your soul
What matters come to mind
The cares you keep The thoughts you think
It's not all wasted time Seek and you will find**

Chorus

**Joy still comes in the morning
Hope still walks with the hurting
If you're still alive and breathing
Praise the Lord
Don't stop dancing and dreaming
There's still good news worth repeating
So lift your head and keep singing
Praise the Lord**

**The years roll by We wonder why
We lost our way from home
Our Father finds The child inside
We left for growing old
Awake awake awake my soul**

Bridge

**Let everything let everything
Let everything praise the Lord**

Bridge

**In the working in the waiting
Let it praise the Lord
In the blessing in the breaking
Come on praise the Lord
In the dying the rising
Let it praise the Lord
Let it praise the Lord Praise the Lord Chorus**

Worship Leaders:	Seminarian Josh Kintz, Proclaimer Pastor Chris A. Spelbring, Presiding Pastor
Scripture Reader:	Seminarian Mark Esser
Elder on Duty:	Kurt Wampole
Praise Vocals/Band:	Vocals: Ashley Shalenko, Luke Mandeville, Josh Davis; Band: Josh Davis, acoustic; Cara Clemens, bass guitar; Chris Baron, set; Dawn Tayon, keys
Acolytes:	Jack Wilson, William Ziegler
Sound/Video/Camera:	Frank Rudolph/Monica Taylor/Nate Kalkwarf
Communion Assistants:	Mark Esser, Carl Florczyk, Ryan Reu, Doug Mathews
Ushers:	Pat Mandeville, Michele and Paul Brown

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Hearing Impaired

Worshippers may request a personal radio amplifier from an usher. These can be used anywhere in the sanctuary.

Sight Saving Editions

Large print copies of this Worship Bulletin and Bibles are available from an usher.

Communion

Those baptized and confirmed Christians who share our Lutheran confession of faith are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper with us. Since the Lord's Supper is a testimony of our unity in faith and love, those Christians of a different confession of faith who desire to receive the Sacrament are asked to speak with a Pastor before worship. All are welcome to come to the altar and receive a blessing. The desire to receive a blessing can be indicated by crossing arms over the chest and keeping hands folded. For further discussion and a guide to self-examination before communion, see the Holy Communion Guide in the pew pocket.

Communion in the Pew

Please notify an usher if you would like to be served communion in the pew.

Care Needed During Worship

Should you or anyone with you today experience a health-related problem, look for someone wearing a yellow lanyard/nametag (seated on the center aisle left side as you exit sanctuary). They have specialized training to assist you.

Nursery Available

Children are welcome in worship here at Zion but if a little one (or their parent) needs a short break, the church lobby is available for walking and comforting. The nursery is located to the left as you exit the sanctuary if you should need a quiet space. Diaper changing stations are located in the handicapped stalls of the restrooms.