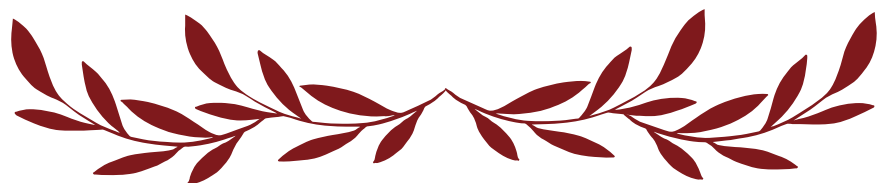




**The Child Who Is
John's Joy**



**December 17, 2025
Midweek Advent Service**

AS WE GATHER

The palpable joy of God's people as they recognize His blessings pervades Scripture. David couldn't contain himself when the ark of the covenant came into the city. Unborn John the Baptist jumped for joy inside his mother, Elizabeth, when Mary arrived, bearing Jesus. And Paul encourages us to "rejoice in the Lord always." In each case, they rejoiced as they saw God's plans coming to fruition. Because Advent is a time of preparation, we do not always let joy pervade our worship. But the third Sunday and its week are "lighter." They help us to join the saints of long ago in singing the praises of God, who comes to us to dispel our doubts, meet our deepest needs, and clear away the darkness of whatever has burdened us.

INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

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

C Amen.

P I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

C I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

P May my meditation be pleasing to Him,

C for I rejoice in the Lord.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P When Mary, bearing Jesus inside her, approached Elizabeth, her son, who would become John the Baptist, jumped for joy inside her. Let us confess to God and one another that we have not always fully appreciated the joy He brings to each of us.

C I confess to God Almighty and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have allowed the cares and worries of this world to dampen my spirit and mute my joy. I have given the expectations of others more weight than my desire to thank our heavenly Father

for all His blessings. I have rejoiced in times of elation but failed to thank our Lord for the gift of each new day. And I have forgotten to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, seldom jumping for joy over the abiding presence of God in my life.

P Rejoice in the Lord always! The baby in whose presence John jumped for joy is your Savior from every failing of yours and from sin itself. That you may rejoice now and always, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. Let it be as you have said. Amen!

HYMN LSB 370:2 “What Child Is This”

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 6:12–23

And it was told King David, “The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. And when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. And David danced before the Lord with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the horn. As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart. And they brought in the ark of the Lord and set it in its place, inside the tent that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house. And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, “How the king of Israel honored himself today,

uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants' female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!" And David said to Michal, "It was before the Lord, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the Lord—and I will make merry before the Lord. I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in your eyes. But by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor." And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Philippians 4:4–9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 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. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING Luke 1:39–45

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

your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

APOSTLES' CREED (Second Article)

P What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

C **This, this is Christ the King, the Father's only Son, our Lord—
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was
buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

**He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead
—the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

HYMN **LSB 331** “The Advent of Our King”

SERMON

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER FOR PEACE

P Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

C **give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P May God Almighty—the Father, who kept all His ancient promises; the Son, who entered human history as one of us to save us from our sins; and the Holy Spirit, who has worked faith in our hearts that we may celebrate the birth of the Babe, the Son of Mary—bless you and keep you, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

HYMN LSB 358:1, 14–15 “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

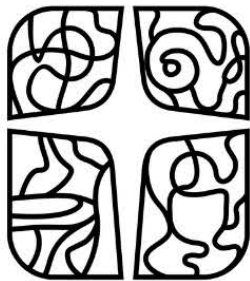

C Thanks be to God!



Emmanuel's
Christmas Eve Services
December 24, 2025

3:00 pm Children's Service
7:00 pm Praise Service
9:00 pm Traditional Service

Christmas Day
December 25, 2025
One Service
10:00 am



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