

PREPARE YE



Week 3: Praise

*Sing praises to the Lord,
O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.*

Psalm 30:4

“Prepare Ye”

In this worship series for traditional worship for Advent, we contemplate the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas, taking cues from the psalms of old and from those whom God chose to play a part in the story of our Lord’s birth. As we draw near to the manger bed of our Savior from sin and death, our hearts prepare him room for his everlasting love.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER

December 16, 2020

Third Midweek Advent Service

7:00 p.m.

Pre-Service Music 🎵

Welcome

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C Sing with Moses and the people of Israel, saying—

P I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously.

C The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

P When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, she asked,

C Why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

P Rejoice in the Lord always!

C Again I will say, rejoice!

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Opening Hymn 🎵

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

--LSB 347 vs. 1 & 3

1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning ’neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.”

**3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.**

Confession and Absolution

P God our Father, we come to you in sorrow for our sins. For turning away from you, and ignoring your truth and your beauty, Father, forgive us:

C Save us and help us.

P For turning to what is dirty and ugly, beastly and unsightly; Father, forgive us:

C Save us and help us.

P For often approving of what is sinful and dark; Father, forgive us:

C Save us and help us.

P For having no song to sing, no joy in our heart; Father, forgive us:

C Save us and help us.

P For letting ourselves be drawn away from the beauty of the Gospel by temptations in the world around us; Father, forgive us:

**C Save us and help us. Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy!
Lord, have mercy!**

P The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus! Jesus is the Prince of Peace and his atoning sacrifice, shed blood and third-day victory over death delivers divine peace to all who are penitent and contrite. Rejoice in the Lord always!

C Again I will say, rejoice.

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 15:1-3

Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, “I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name.

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 4:4-8

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..

Gospel Lesson

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.”

Hymn of the Day ♪

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

--LSB 341 vs. 1 & 4

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

The Message “Long Dark Hallways”

--Rev. Marty Marks

The Prayers

P Gracious Father, we long to live much less of a driven life and much more of a called life. We long to live with less fear and more freedom, less by frenzy and more by faith, with fewer obsessions and with much more adoration of you, the God of all peace. So we heed the words of St. Paul, “Rejoice in the Lord always!”

C Again I will say, “Rejoice.”

P Gracious Father, forgive the times when you call us forward and we do nothing and make excuses. Instead, enable us to be like Mary as we go forward, always forward, forever forward—marching to the words, “Rejoice in the Lord always!”

C Again I will say, “Rejoice.”

P Gracious Father, for many of us what hinders most is fear. The fear of not being enough and having enough, the fear of losing face and losing control, the fear of missing the mark and missing out. Only your presence with us in Jesus our Lord can keep us from falling into the pit of worry and anxiety. That’s why we decide to, “Rejoice in the Lord always!”

C Again I will say, “Rejoice.”

P Gracious Father, drive out everything in our lives that holds us back from full-hearted and all-out devotion to you. Your Son lived a life of perfect obedience for us as the second Adam, fulfilling everything you require of us. Christ’s resurrection from the dead on the third day is the firstfruits and guarantee that one Day we will be as lovely as you and as loving as you. What a glorious Day that will be! That’s why we say, “Rejoice in the Lord always!”

C Again I will say, “Rejoice.”

P Gracious Father, we place ourselves, these prayers and those we love before your throne of grace, trusting in the powerful and priceless name of Jesus.

C Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

The Benediction

P Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

C Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand.

P Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

C And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

P Rejoice in the Lord always!

C Again I will say, rejoice.

Closing Hymn ♪

“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

--LSB 350 vs. 1 & 2

**1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.**

**2 Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!**

**Silent Prayers
Announcements
Postlude**

Participants

Liturgist and Preacher: Rev. Marty Marks

Organist: Linda Conrad

Pianist/Vocalist: C-J Motisi

Videographer: Jen Allen

Sound Board: Cody Allen