

St. Luke’s Gondola Point

**MORNING PRAYER**

ADVENT III - December 12, 2021

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

(This liturgy was compiled and written by the Rev. Matthew Kozlowski, 2015)

The Third Sunday of Advent - *Joy*

“Today we light the first, second, and third candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is *Hope*, the second candle is *Peace*, and the third candle is *Joy*.”

[**The candles are lit.**]

Isaiah 55:12 – “You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.”

Let us pray: **“Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.”**

Advent Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel (CP #89 Verse 6, altered)

O Come Thou Dayspring come and cheer / our spirits by thy advent here

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night / and death’s dark shadows put to flight

Rejoice! Rejoice! / Emmanuel

Shall come to thee / O Israel

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted. *Isaiah 61.1*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**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 neighbours 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.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (CP #425)

**MORNING PRAYER**

Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Show us your mercy, O Lord,

**And grant us your salvation.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now,** **and will be for ever. Amen.** **Alleluia!**

The kingdom of God is at hand: **O come, let us worship.**

**Jubilate** *- Psalm 100*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*

**serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.**

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*

**he himself has made us, and we are his;**

**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \*

**give thanks to him and call upon his name.**

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \*

**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

The kingdom of God is at hand: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A reading from the book of Zephaniah 3:14–20.

*14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;*

*shout, O Israel!*

*Rejoice and exult with all your heart,*

*O daughter Jerusalem!*

*15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,*

*he has turned away your enemies.*

*The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;*

*you shall fear disaster no more.*

*16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:*

*Do not fear, O Zion;*

*do not let your hands grow weak.*

*17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst,*

*a warrior who gives victory;*

*he will rejoice over you with gladness,*

*he will renew you in his love;*

*he will exult over you with loud singing*

*18 as on a day of festival.*

*I will remove disaster from you,*

*so that you will not bear reproach for it.*

*19 I will deal with all your oppressors*

*at that time.*

*And I will save the lame*

*and gather the outcast,*

*and I will change their shame into praise*

*and renown in all the earth.*

*20 At that time I will bring you home,*

*at the time when I gather you;*

*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.*

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 3 - *Song of Thanksgiving* - Isaiah 12:2–6

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*

**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defence, \*

**and he will be my Saviour.**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*

**from the springs of salvation.**

And on that day you shall say, \*

**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his name;**

make his deeds known among the peoples; \*

**see that they remember that his name is exalted.**

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*

**and this is known in all the world.**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*

**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

A reading from the book of Philippians 4:4–7.

*4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6Do not worry 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.*

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 18a - *Song of Mary* - Luke 1:46-55

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,*

*my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; \**

***for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.***

*From this day all generations will call me blessed: \**

***the Almighty has done great things for me,***

***and holy is his name.***

*He has mercy on those who fear him \**

***in every generation.***

*He has shown the strength of his arm, \**

***he has scattered the proud in their conceit.***

*He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \**

***and has lifted up the lowly.***

*He has filled the hungry with good things, \**

***and the rich he has sent away empty.***

*He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \**

***for he has remembered his promise of mercy,***

*the promise he made to our fathers, \**

***to Abraham and his children for ever.***

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \**

***as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.***

***Amen.***

Song: *The Kingdom of God*

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke (3:7–18). **Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*7John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”*

*10And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” 11In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” 12Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” 13He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” 14Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”*

*15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”*

*18So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. 19But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, 20added to them all by shutting up John in prison.*

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, “Lord Jesus, come soon!”

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

For our own needs and those of others. [***Take a moment of silence to offer up prayers and intercessions, for yourself and for others. Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin.***]

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

**[*Silence. Take a moment to offer up your own thanksgivings to God.*]**

*Gracious God,*

*you have heard the prayers of your faithful people; you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.* ***Amen****.*

Collect

*God of power and mercy,*

*you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son.*

*Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever..* **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song: *Joy To The World* (CP #154)

Dismissal

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**