

December 10, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent
Lord of Life Lutheran Church



How does a
weary world
rejoice? We allow ourselves
to be amazed

WELCOME

MUSICAL OFFERING

Suzanne Bowen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God can part the sea.

**God can bring water from a rock,
and provide bread in the desert.**

Our God can walk on water.

**God can heal the sick,
and turn water into wine.**

Our God sets the stars in the sky.

**God hears our voice when we cry,
and is closer than our own breath.**

There is nothing our God cannot do.

Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

How does a weary world practice joy?

By dancing, and throwing birthday Parties.

By hanging Christmas lights, and holding
sleepy babies. By singing loudly, and
looking for good news.

**By telling the story of Jesus, and
showing up for our community.**

There are a million ways to practice joy.

So today we light the candle of joy as a
reminder and a charge.

**With God's help, may we bring joy
into a weary world. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

If you spend any time with a child, you will quickly notice that children see the world differently. For a child, a ladybug is a miracle. A pine tree is a wonder. Curiosity is a love language, and water is not only for survival, but for joy.

As adults, we forget this language of awe and wonder, and when we do, we distance ourselves from God. In confession, we have the opportunity to close that distance.

So let us return to God with hearts wide open. Let us return to God in prayer. Join me in the prayer of confession:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,
Somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe.
We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts.
We praise those who have answers,
and assume that wonder is an answerless game.
Forgive us for closing that door to you.
Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children.
Teach us the ways of awe and wonder,
so that like Zechariah,
when we find ourselves speechless,
our first words will be words of praise.
With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, Just as we marvel at mountains and newborns,
at sunrises and sunsets, God marvels at us.
There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could prevent God from loving you.
So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:
We are forgiven.
We are loved.
We belong to God. Amen.

HYMN

God is Here

#526

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the universe, open our hearts. Open our eyes, as if for the first time, so that we might see your world with awe and wonder once again. Lead us to be in awe of what you are doing in this world. Help us to not have our hearts and minds clouded by the distractions of this world. For just a moment help us to pause to make room for wonder. Help us greet this text with awe and gratitude. For we are confident, that in doing so we will learn more about you. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² **Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

then it was said among the nations,

‘The Lord has done great things for them.’

³ **The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.**

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵ **May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.**

⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
**shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

#175



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:57-66

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰ But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.'

⁶¹ They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.'

⁶² Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³ He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵ Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Prepare the Royal Highway

#264

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who knows our names,
**who counts the hairs on our heads,
and carries the dreams in our hearts.**

We believe that God's fingerprints are all over creation,
and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different ways.

We believe that awe and wonder,
**goosebumps and laughter,
telling stories and paying attention,**
are all ways that we can say thank you
to our creating, sustaining, and loving God.

**Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world
with eyes wide open,
with tender hearts,
and grateful spirits.**

We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude,
trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into God's loving arms.
 We believe.
We stand in awe.
Thanks be to God!

THE PRAYERS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

SONG DURING OFFERING *Come and Fill Our Hearts*

#528



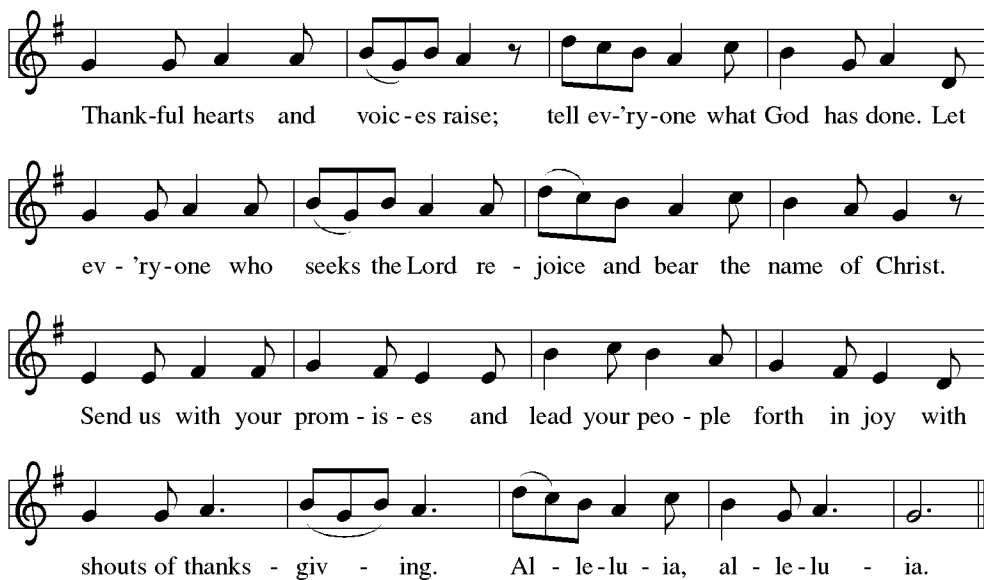
Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.



Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

OFFERTORY *Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*

#207



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let
 ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.
 Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
 shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

Come Join the Dance of Trinity

#412

SENDING

Gospel Acclamation (Taizé)

Music: “Alleluia 7,” Jacques Berthier, and the Taizé Community

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Come and Fill Our Hearts

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community

Music: CONFITEMINO DOMINO, Jacques Berthier

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Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

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