

TODAY'S FOCUS

Songs Of The Season, part 6: "Joy to the World!" For Advent 2021 we are using beloved Advent and Christmas songs to explore the theme of God preparing us. The Lord has come and His blessings flow to overcome our troubles and fill us with joy!

+ WORSHIP THE LORD +

LSB 387 JOY TO THE WORLD

sts. 1–2

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let men their songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Luke 1:49–51, 54, adapt.

P The mighty Lord has done great things and holy is His name.

C We thank You, O Lord!

P The Lord's mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

C We adore You, O Lord!

P The Lord has shown the strength of His arm.

C We praise You, O Lord!

P The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.

C We worship You, O Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

All four Advent candles are lit.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Psalm 25:6–7

P Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God’s new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

P We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not always been instruments of Your peace. Our homes have at times been places of strife and turmoil by our own fault. Even in the church sometimes we have chosen to fight rather than to make peace.

C **Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

C **according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the

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

C Amen.

LSB 387 JOY TO THE WORLD

sts. 3–4

- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might,

C that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy;

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ GOD'S WORD FOR US +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 98:4–9 NIV

⁴Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;

⁵make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,

⁶with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—
shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

⁷Let the sea resound, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it.

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands,
let the mountains sing together for joy;

⁹let them sing before the LORD,
for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Colossians 1:15–23 NIV

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of ^[a] your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been

proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:8–14

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HWC 152 I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

- 1 I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth goodwill to men
- 2 I thought how as the day had come
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth goodwill to men
- 3 And in despair I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth goodwill to men
- 4 Yet pealed the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead nor doth He sleep
The wrong shall fail the right prevail
With peace on earth goodwill to men
- 5 Then ringing singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day
A voice a chime a chant sublime
Of peace on earth goodwill to men

MESSAGE: "JOY TO THE WORLD, I HEARD THE BELLS"

(Songs of the Season, part 6)

APOSTLES' CREED

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

OUR PRAYERS

+ SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION +

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION

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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

+ HYMN OF COMMUNING +

LSB 618 I COME, O SAVIOR, TO THY TABLE sts. 1, ref, 3, 5

1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: **Refrain**

**ref Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: **Refrain**

5 What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace. **Refrain**

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BENEDICTION Luke 1:54–55; Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

LSB 763 WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER sts. 1, ref, 2–3

1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

Ref It is well (It is well)

**with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. **Refrain**

3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! **Refrain**

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