

*DO YOU KNOW THE JOY OF GOD?*

How Do You Christmas?, part 6

## *AS WE GATHER*

On Sunday Pastor Jerry McNamara taught that knowing God is the the greatest gift-- Christmas or otherwise. Today, we explore the Advent theme of Joy and what is it that brings joy and delight to God.

*HYMNS & CAROLS*

Member choice!

## **+ SERVICE OF LIGHT +**

### *OPENING SENTENCES*

**P** Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

**C** **the light no darkness can overcome.**

**P** By the Holy Spirit we cry out with the whole Church,

**C** **“Prepare the way of the Lord.”**

**P** All who wait for Jesus to return pray,

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

### *THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT*

LSB, p. 245

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and

You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures,  
glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

*LSB 873 CHRIST, WHOSE GLORY FILLS THE SKIES*

- 1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true and only light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise;  
Triumph o'er the shades of night.  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.
- 2 Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return  
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
- 3 Visit then this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, radiancy divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.

## *PRAYER*

**P** Let us pray.

To You, O Lord, we lift up our heads to see the King of glory coming. Your angels declared His coming long ago in the age of the prophets. Your angel Gabriel, and a whole heavenly host, rejoiced and sang His glory at His birth. The two angels sitting in the empty tomb declared, “He is risen from the dead.” The apostle John saw a vision with seven angels at Christ’s coming again to wipe away every tear from our eyes. Lift up our heads and our hearts to see and rejoice: The King of glory comes!

**C** **Amen.**

## *LSB 933 MY SOUL REJOICES*

1 My soul rejoices, My spirit voices—

Sing the greatness of the Lord!

For God my Savior Has shown me favor—

Sing the greatness of the Lord!

With praise and blessing, Join in confessing

God, who is solely Mighty and holy—

O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

His mercy surely Shall rest securely

On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him—

O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

2 His arm now baring, His strength declaring—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!

The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!

Oppression halted; The meek exalted.

Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy—

O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

Here is the token All that was spoken

To Abr'ham's offspring God is fulfilling—

O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

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## + READINGS +

### *READING*

### Isaiah 35 NIV

<sup>35:1</sup> The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, <sup>2</sup> it will burst into bloom;  
it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;

they will see the glory of the Lord,  
the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way;

<sup>4</sup> say to those with fearful hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear; your God will come,

he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution  
he will come to save you.”

<sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.

<sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for  
joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

<sup>7</sup> The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling  
springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus  
will grow.

<sup>8</sup> And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness;  
it will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.

<sup>9</sup> No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast;  
they will not be found there.

But only the redeemed will walk there,

<sup>10</sup> and those the Lord has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee  
away.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## READING

Luke 1:26–38 NIV

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The

angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup> “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called<sup>[a]</sup> the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail.”

<sup>38</sup> “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

*MESSAGE: DO YOU KNOW THE JOY OF GOD?*

## OFFERING

*LSB 515 REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS*

sts. 1, 3

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
And let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing,  
And darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising  
And soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
At midnight comes the cry.
- 3 The saints, who here in patience  
Their cross and suff'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever  
When sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
The Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before Him  
Their diadems of gold.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.

Text: Public domain

**+ PRAYERS +**

*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.

*BENEDICTION*

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✝ Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**C** Amen.

*LSB 387 JOY TO THE WORLD*

sts. 1–3

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.

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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

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