

ADVENT MIDWEEK 3
"WAIT UPON THE LORD With Rejoicing"
December 15, 2021
7 p.m.

*This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. Isaiah 25:9*

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: 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.
- L: Wait upon the Lord.
C: Be strong and courageous.
- L: Wait upon the Lord. That's what Elizabeth did.
C: She waited for a child.
- L: John the Baptist.
C: Then she said to Mary:
- L: When the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb
leaped for joy.
C: Wait upon the Lord.
- L: Be strong and courageous.
C: Wait upon the Lord!

HYMN No. 367 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (vss. 1,2,4,5)

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:**

**Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light. (Refrain)

Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear. (Refrain)

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To th'eternal Three in One. (Refrain)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- L: God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
**C: We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and
sometimes with You. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray
from Your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous,
we ask You, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and keep us
patiently waiting for the promised coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ our
Lord.**

(Silent Reflection)

- L: Believe and receive the good news! God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to
show His infinite love and forgiveness for all people. As "Elizabeth was filled with
the Holy Spirit, and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb," Christ is born in us too, and has come to
bring mercy and forgiveness through the extravagant sacrifice and gift of His
precious life. To those who call upon His name, His sacrifice is applied and His
gift of forgiveness and life is given. May the Child of Bethlehem, fill us with
rejoicing today and forever.
**C: We rejoice that our sins are forgiven in the holy name of + Christ
Who came and indeed, will come again. Amen.**

- L: Wait upon the Lord.
C: Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

SONG OF PRAISE "Joyfully" Kari Jobe (video)

BLESSING OF THE BLANKETS (The blankets presented tonight are being dedicated for the people of Mayfield, KY who are suffering in the wake of the devastating tornado that leveled this small country town).

L: Lord Jesus, as a child You were wrapped in swaddling cloths and held in the arms of poor yet loving parents. You have called us to go and do likewise as we reach out to our neighbors in need of warmth and care today. Send forth your Spirit as we call upon you to bless our work and make it holy.

C: Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors.

L: Thank you, Creator God, for the hands that have made and assembled these blankets. May each compassionate touch be known to those who receive them as an expression of Your love.

C: Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors.

L: Loving Spirit, open Your strong arms of mercy to our neighbors in Mayfield, Kentucky, and especially those still reeling in the loss of property and life. Wrap the wounded and worried in the love You who have sewn into the very fabric of these blankets through our women of faith. May those who receive these blankets know the loving touch of Your powerful yet gentle hands and the warmth of Your embrace. Grant them, O Lord, comfort for their souls as much as for their bodies, and fill them with the hope and peace that is only found in You.

C: We now lay these blankets before You, compassionate Lord. Bless them and give them power to bring comfort and joy to our neighbors in need today; in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Be our strength every morning and our salvation in the night of despair. Show forth your power and might, just as you did in the days of Mary and Elizabeth; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit—God forever. Amen.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING 1 Samuel 2:1-3

Hannah's Prayer

And Hannah prayed and said,

**“My heart exults in the LORD;
my horn is exalted in the LORD.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.**

**“There is none holy like the LORD:
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.
Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING

Romans 12:11-18

Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

L: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
C: Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. Hallelujah!

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 1:39-45 (Mary Visits Elizabeth) (stand)

L: The Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st Chapter.
C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN No. 357 “Hymn 357 O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vss. 1,4,6)

Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the son of God appear. (refrain)

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Oh, come, Thou Branch of Jesses’s tree,
Free them from Satan’s tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save;
Bring them in vict’ry o’er the grave. (refrain)

Oh, come, our Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to fight. (refrain)

SERMON “Wait for the Lord with Rejoicing” Seminarian Nathan Nelson

OFFERING (Received in the Foyer) Give thanks to the Lord for all His benefits!

PRAYERS

L: Heavenly Father, we wait for you.
C: **More than watchmen wait for the morning—**

L: More than watchmen wait for the morning.
C: **Lead us in your truth and teach us**

L: For you are the God of our salvation.
C: **For you we wait all the day long.**

L: O God, inspire us to wait for you faithfully.
C: **Serve you joyfully.**

L: And give to others generously.
C: **Gracious Lord, grant healing for the sick.**

L: Courage for the fainthearted.
C: **Hope for the discouraged.**

L: And great clarity for all in the valley of decision.
C: **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

L: Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:
All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**

(continues on next page)

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.

BLESSING OF THE LORD

P: May God give us the faith of Abraham,
the hope of Isaiah, the joy of Elizabeth,
and the gratitude of Zechariah.
God will make us strong and courageous.
C: **As we wait upon the Lord! Amen.**

HYMN No. 375 "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising" (vss. 1,4,5,6)

**Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.**

**Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing
And to you we come confessing
Your great love has set us free.**

**Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.**

SENDING

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**