

### **THIRD SUNDAY in ADVENT**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion **is** a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an usher.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

#### **Prelude**

#### **Word of Welcome**

**Opening Hymn**      *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*      *LSB 340*

**Lighting of the Advent Candle**      *Isaiah 2:2-3, 5; Psalm 119-105*

**Hymn**      *The Candle of Hope*      *Page 5*

**Confession & Absolution**      *Page 184*

#### **Introit**

**P:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

**C:** **Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

**P:** who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

**C:** **who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.**

**P:** The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

**ALL: 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 forever. Amen.**

P: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

## **Kyrie**

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## **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

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P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray.

**ALL: Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **Old Testament Reading**

*Zephaniah 3:14–20*

## **Gradual**

**ALL: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. Amen.**

## **Epistle**

*Philippians 4:4–7*

## **Alleluia**

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## **Holy Gospel**

*Luke 7:18–28*

## **Nicene Creed**

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## **Hymn of the Day**

*Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices*

*LSB 811*

## **Sermon Theme**

*"A Song of Joy"*

**Text**

*Psalms 126:1-3, 6*

## **Prayer of the Church**

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, as You once sent messengers before the face of Jesus to prepare His way, so strengthen and encourage pastors and church workers as they make known His saving name. Open the ears of all who hear to rejoice, repent and firmly believe in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, You rescue the daughter of Zion from her enemies and take away the judgments against her. Look with compassion upon Your people

wherever they suffer for the name of Jesus. Give them wisdom when they are pressured to compromise, provide for them when they suffer loss, give courage when they are afraid, and strengthen them in the midst of persecution until You deliver them. Preserve us in the joyful hope that You will restore all that is lost with what cannot be taken away. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O God, Giver of all good gifts, look upon the households of Your people. Provide companionship for those who are alone. Strengthen the bonds of marriage. Equip parents to raise their children in love and faith. Grant that our homes may be places of joy, reasonableness, peace and prayer. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, You command us not to be anxious, but in everything by prayer and thanksgiving to make our requests known to You. Give wisdom, health and success to the authorities who govern us and those newly elected. Give earthly peace in our time, even as Your Gospel gives eternally the peace that passes all understanding. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: God of all joy, You bid us to be anxious about nothing, but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to make our requests known to You. Forgive our anxieties, and strengthen us to examine ourselves for whatever causes us to doubt Your mercy. Guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, and hear the prayers that we offer today. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Look with kindness on all people, especially those for whom we pray. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Heavenly Father, the Son of Man came eating and drinking with sinners, that He might proclaim the kingdom and welcome them in by the forgiveness of sins. As He hosts His Supper this day for His repentant people, grant those who partake of His body and blood to be worthy and well-prepared, firmly believing the words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Service of the Sacrament**

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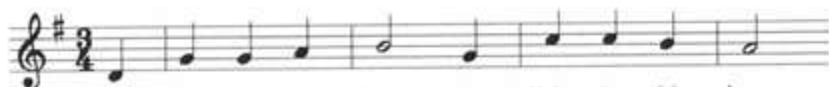
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# The Candle of Hope

Text: Carolyn Gillette

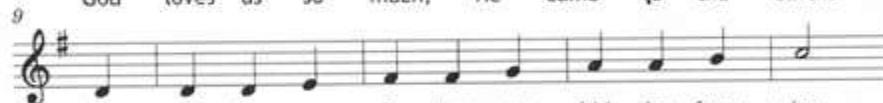
Tune: Lyons  
10.10.11.11



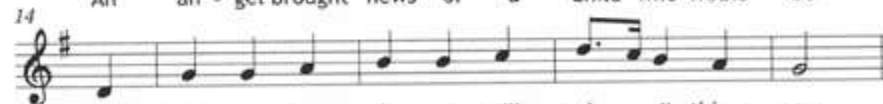
1 The can - dle of hope we light in this hour  
2 The can - dle of peace shines bright with God's plan;  
3 The can - dle of joy re - minds us to sing.  
4 The can - dle of love tells what we are worth:



Pro - claims that the Lord is com - ing in power.  
A means for sal - va - tion since time be - gan.  
For God is at work to do a new thing.  
God loves us so much, He came to the earth!



We wait for a fu - ture, now hid - den from view,  
A Sav - ior be - got - ten of God; Prince of Peace.  
The proud will be hum - bled; the low - ly will rise.  
An an - gel brought news of a Child who would be



When Christ in his glo - ry will make all things new.  
A ran - som for sin, bur - dened souls to re - lease.  
God's king - dom is one of de - light and sur - prise!  
the One who would save us and set us all free.

## Stewardship Thought



### God's Creating and Saving Hands

In Psalm 145:16 we read, *"You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing."* The psalmist understood not only that God created him, but also that he had a responsibility to respond in wise management of his body and life. *"Your hands have made and fashioned me; give me understanding that I may learn Your commandments"* (Psalm 119:73). David praised God for His wonderful creation and for making mankind the most important part of His creation. God's hands are always open in giving, and He knows exactly what to impart. By His Word, our Father's hand leads and directs our lives. His saving hands are hands that were nailed to the cross. Christ's open hands bear the scars of wounds inflicted for our transgression that we might be healed and forgiven. They invite us, *"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28). As people made by His hands, we need to seek continued forgiveness for our ingratitude and our wrongs.

**Prayer:** *Dear Father, thank You that I am so fearfully and wonderfully made by Your hands. Help me to show my gratitude by what I think, say, and do. Amen.*

**Blessings on your stewardship journey!**