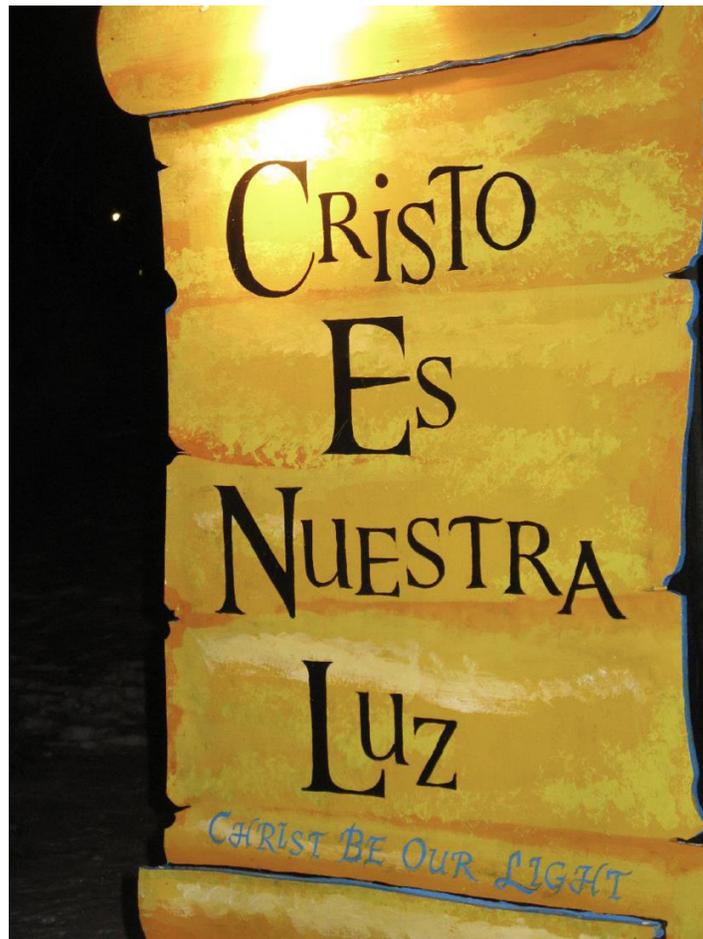




# REJOICE FELLOWSHIP

A Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

PASTOR MADDIE TALLMAN



**December 13, 2020 at 10:00 am**

**John 1:6-8, 19-28**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

C: indicates spoken responses by the congregation  
P: indicates the Presiding Minister  
A: indicates the Assisting Minister

*Welcome to worship at Rejoice Fellowship! We have moved back to Facebook Live worship only at this time. We also have adopted a few safety measures for the small group that leads worship each week. A few changes you may notice include not having a song leader and designating one person to read corporate responses (the bolded text). The point of these measures is to ensure a high level of safety. Folks at home are more than encouraged to sing along to the gathering and sending hymns, and to join in the corporate responses. We thank you for your understanding as we try out new ways of being the church and worshipping during the pandemic.*

*A note about communion—we will be celebrating Holy Communion this morning! We invite you to gather a piece of bread and wine or juice before worship begins. After the Invitation to Communion, all those in-person and at home can consume the elements and receive the blessed sacrament together, even if apart.*

## ✠ Gathering ✠

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### GATHERING HYMN

### PAVE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
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## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. By way of human waters, Mary gave birth to your Son, whom we await. And at the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as your children, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**



## **GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## **KYRIE**

*A "kyrie" (pronounced KEE-ree-aye) is a portion of ancient pre-Christian liturgy that invokes Christ and asks for mercy. It is also called Kyrie Eleison, which in greek means "Lord have mercy."*

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace from above,  
and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For the peace of the whole world,  
for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: For this holy house,  
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen, amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## ✠ Word ✠

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### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
the Lord has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display the glory of God.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
and has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

A: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 126**

<sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

**<sup>2</sup>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."**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**<sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup>May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

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

## **THE GOSPEL**

**JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony given by John when the Judeans sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>John confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>John said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup>Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup>the one who is coming after me; the thong of whose sandal I am not

worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup>This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P: The Gospel of our Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**PASTOR MADDIE TALLMAN**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

*As the wreath is lit, one candle for each progressive Sunday in Advent, O Come O Come Emmanuel will be played.*

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Following each petition:*

A: Hear us O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE**

A: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

*You are invited to safely share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another.*

# ✠ Meal ✠

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## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

*Tithes and offerings can be sent in two ways: physical checks/cash mailed to the office at 105 1st Ave SW, Glen Burnie, MD 21061 (please don't mail offering and tithes to Quarterfield Road) or sent electronically by clicking here: <https://rb.gy/ryhn0m>*

## GENEROSITY TALK

### OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

**C: Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**



# ✠ Sending ✠

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✠ now and forever.

C: Amen.

### SENDING HYMN

### HARK, THE GLAD SOUND!



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to • en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751  
Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

## **DISMISSAL**

A: Wherever you go from here, be at peace. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and serve the Lord.

## **C: Thanks be to God.**

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