



+ Midweek Advent 2 +
Wednesday, December 6, 2023



**Messiah Lutheran
Church**

1531 Townline Ave. Beloit, WI
(608) 365-3794

Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping the Lord with us today!

Midweek Advent Meditative Worship

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Fruit of the Spirit: Joy

FROM THE LAY ELDER-DEACONS: Welcome to Messiah. We want to make sure your worship experience goes well. So just as a reminder, ***please have cellphones ringers off during worship. Please, no gaming, texting, or social media. If you need to use your phone or have a conversation with someone, please excuse yourself from the sanctuary. Thank you.***

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: Live audio of the worship service is available in the room next to the Narthex. It is located just off the Narthex in the back of the sanctuary. The room has a bathroom. This room is a safe place for anxious children (or adults) to go and still be a part of the worship service.

Prayer before worship: (Please pray silently): *O Heavenly Father, as we gather in Your house to receive the gift of forgiveness through Your Word, guard us from vain and distracting thoughts. Grant us pause from our busy lives. Open our hearts so that we are receptive to the proclamation of life with Your Son, and do not close our ears to the offering of salvation. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen. (Adapted from **Right Worship of God** prayer in *Portals of Prayer*, April through June, 2011)*

PRELUDE

WORSHIP THEME: Advent looks to the past to prepare us for the future. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's First Advent when He became incarnate as man, we review the promises of God as we prepare for Christ's Second and Final Advent.

This year our Midweek Advent theme is "**Dining on the Fruit of Spirit.**" Between midweek Advent and midweek Lenten services we are exploring 9 characteristics that make up the Fruit of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. These are how the Holy Spirit is working in us to be more like Jesus. Tonight, you will receive a fruit tree and a piece of fruit to put on that tree.

This week we explore the Holy Spirit's Fruit of Joy. It is not happiness. Happiness depends on circumstances on the outside. Joy from Jesus starts from within us as the Holy Spirit is there giving us His fruit at the direction of Christ. This changes the attitude we have concerning how we face challenges in life. When we dine of God's joy, our actions are good and right in order to be filled with contentment. God bless you with more of His joy as you feed on God's Word tonight.

OFFERING: *Please put your offering in the plates at the entrance. Thank you for your support.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME – WORSHIP THEME – GREET EACH OTHER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

Bible Verse for Advent: *Isaiah 64:8 ESV*

P: But now, O LORD, You are our Father;

C: We are the clay, and You are our Potter;

P: We are the work of Your hand

C: Mold me and make me Your treasure as we worship You.

(Lighting of the candles...to symbolize the special presence of Christ when we invoke the Name of God in which we were baptized.)

Adapted from the Order of Vespers from the Lutheran Service Book

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: And my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God to deliver me.

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord. 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.

P: World without end.

C: Amen.

P: Praise to You, O Christ.

C: The King who comes to save us

(From Psalm 30:1-5 NKJV)

P: I will extol You, O Lord, for You have lifted me up,

C: And have not let my foes rejoice over me.

P: O Lord my God, I cried out to You,

C: And You healed me.

P: O Lord, You brought my soul up from the grave;

C: You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.

P: Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His,

C: And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.

P: For His anger is but for a moment

C: His favor is for life;

P: Weeping may endure for a night,

C: But joy comes in the morning.

HYMN OF THE NIGHT..... "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"LSB 803



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

SCRIPTURE READING #1: Galatians 5:22-25 ESV

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

SCRIPTURE READING #2: James 1:2-5 NIV

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work

so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

SCRIPTURE READING #3: John 15:5-11 NIV

Jesus said: ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY: "Fruit of Joy: Real Joy is only from Jesus! Text: John 15:5-11

(If you are able, please stand)

HYMN OF RESPONSE: "Create in Me" LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;



and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT:

P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a Righteous Branch

C: This is the Name by which He will be called: The Lord is Our Righteousness.

P: In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C: This is the Name by which He will be called: The Lord is Our Righteousness.

P: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

C: This is the Name by which He will be called: The Lord is Our Righteousness.

(Please be seated)

PRAYERS FROM THE PEW

(At the end of each prayer petition)

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense.

C: And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

(At the conclusion of the prayers, if you are able, please stand)

KYRIE (as sung to the tune in The Lutheran Hymnal, page 7)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom as you have taught us to pray:

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.

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.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: *Now that we better appreciate God's everlasting blessings, here are some suggestions for ways we can show that thanksgiving through service and participating in our congregation.*

BENEDICTION

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

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN.... "Lord of all Hopefulness" LSB 738

(To the Tune of "Be Thou My Vision")

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

P: With the light of Christ, go in peace with the Holy Spirit, living the fruit of Christ's joy.

C: Thanks be to God.

Poinsettias If you are donating a poinsettia for the Advent season please place it on the table in the hallway. Poinsettias will be brought into the sanctuary for each service and then returned to the table for watering and light.

Men's Group THIS Saturday, December 9 at 9am: Meet in the downstairs Conference Room. We've started new Bible Study on the Book of Galatians. Coffee and donuts available. Members and non-members invited. The group meets the 2nd Saturday of the month. To find out more, call or text/call Mark Peterson at 608-322-2099, Bob Altenberg at 608-751-8139 or Mark Boos at 608-931-3701.

Christmas Caroling on Saturday, December 16 at 10am: We would like to assemble three teams featuring 4 singers a piece to carol to our Homebound members. Afterwards, we would have a great lunch together. If you are interested, please call or text Debbie Drost at 608-322-7253 or Pastor Dan at 314-775-7371.

Free Artificial Christmas Trees: 6 foot Westley Pine, 7 foot Elwood Pine, 7.5 foot Fake Needle, and 12 foot Rockford. If you or someone you know are in need of a tree, please contact Teresa Behl at the Church Office at 608-365-3794.

Giving Tree: Thank you that all the tags are taken. There will be NO extra tags. Gifts will need to be wrapped, tagged, and back to church by Monday, December 11.

Upcoming Events at Messiah

- Wednesdays: December 13, and 20:
5:45pm - **Midweek Advent Suppers**
7pm - **Midweek Advent Services**
- Saturday, December 9: **Men's Group** in Downstairs Conference Room
- Saturday, December 9: Linda Sornson Funeral. Visitation: 10:30am; Funeral at Noon; Luncheon immediately following
- Sunday, December 10: **LWML Hosting Fellowship** to raise money for missions
- Sunday, December 10: **Congregational Meeting** after the 9am service.
- Sunday, December 16 at 10am: **Christmas Caroling for Homebound Members**
- Sunday, December 17 at 11am: Sunday School **Christmas Program**
- Sunday, **Christmas Eve**, December 24: 10am with Holy Communion (Mary's Song).
No Sunday School or Fellowship
- Sunday, **Christmas Eve**, December 24: 5pm with no Communion (Joseph's Song).
Family Candles. Different service from 10am
- Monday, December 25 at 10am: **Christmas Day** Worship (Jesus' Song) with Holy Communion
- Wednesday, December 27 at 7pm: Repeat of Christmas Day Service
- Sunday, December 31 at 10am ONLY with Holy Communion. No Sunday School or Fellowship
- Wednesday, January 3 at 7pm: Repeat of Sunday's service.
- Saturday, January 6: **Lutheran Chicks' Shopping Spree Event** at Johnson Creek.
Leave from Church at 9am
- Sunday, January 7: Normal Schedule returns with 9am and 11am services.
Sunday School and Fellowship return.
- Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 1pm: **LWML Prayer Rally Service**. Open to all.