

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.

**Gospel Acclamation: “Alleluia”** (stand as you are able) **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.** 2X

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-11**

<sup>2</sup>When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.” <sup>7</sup>As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>8</sup>If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. <sup>9</sup>Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written: “‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’” <sup>11</sup>Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Children’s Message: Larry Miller**

**Message: Larry Miller**

**Hymn of the Day & Offering: “What Child Is This” #296**

*Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you’d like to sign up for online giving please visit <http://www.stlukegoodhue.org/online-giving.html>. Children’s coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.*

**Vs 1: What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**Vs 2: Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**Vs 3: So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise a song on high The virgin sings her lullaby  
Joy, joy for Christ is born The Babe, the son of Mary**

**Offertory Response: “Give Thanks”** *Ushers may bring offering forward.*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.  
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say, “I am strong”.**

**Let the poor say, “I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us”. Give thanks.**

**Offertory Prayer:**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**Apostles’ Creed:** (please stand as you are able)

**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, & 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, & he will come to judge the living & 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, & the life everlasting. Amen.**

**The Prayers:** (call and response) read by Amie Tipton

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ’s presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. *A briefs silence.* Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice. End racism and oppression. Deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss; especially; Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Sara Nolte, Judy Carpenter, Nancy Nord, Larry Reese, Jan Benidt, Neil Stehr, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Jen Berg, Marilyn O’Brien, Karen O’Reilly, Joyce Balcome, Kellie Peterson, and the family of Madonna Thomforde. Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, we rejoice in your company. Give us calm and patient hearts as we gather with family and friends. Keep us mindful of those for whom this season is not happy. Console the grieving and surround them with loving support. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary, Mother of our Lord, and with all the saints, that your mercy endures for all generations. Look with favor on those who have died and lead us to joyfully sing of your everlasting promises. God, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace:** P: The peace of Christ be with you always,  
C: **And also with you.**

**Lord’s Prayer:**

**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.**

**The Blessing:** (please stand as you are able)

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: “Joy To The Lord” #267**

**Vs. 1: Joy to the world the Lord has come! Let earth receive its 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.**

**Vs. 2: Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**Vs. 3: No more let sin and sorrow 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.**

**Vs. 4: He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove. The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

**Dismissal:** P: The world waits for Christ. You are the body of Christ. Go be His hands and feet.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude** *Pianist, Debbi St. John*



**St. Luke Lutheran Church**  
**Guest Speaker Larry Miller**  
**9:30AM • December 11, 2022**

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**Prelude:** *Pianist, Debbi St. John*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Greeting:** *(please stand as you are able)*

P: May 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.**

**Confession and Forgiveness:**

P: In Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ. Let us open our hearts to God's mercy. Together we confess our sins,

**C: Gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against you, and against our brothers and sisters. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin, and come quickly to save us.**

P: Children of God, the advent of Christ brings the promise of grace. Through Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Live reconciled to each other. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn:** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs. 4, 5 #257

**Vs 4: O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**Vs 5: O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home. Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.**

**Advent Reflection:** *read by Garrett Rehder*

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations or our memories push joy aside? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

**Advent Prayer:** *read by Garrett Rehder*

*Joy - Dear God, in the height of our advent walk, grant us the courage to experience joy. Joy in the face of apathy, joy in the face of sorrow, joy in the face of uncertainty. Amen.*

**Lighting of the Advent Candles & Hymn:** "Light one candle to watch for Messiah" vs 3 #240

**Vs 3: Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.**

**Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 35:1-10

<sup>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

St. Luke Lutheran Church • 308 First Ave. PO Box 276 Goodhue, MN 55027

Sunday School 8:30AM • Sunday Worship: 9:30AM • Wednesday Worship: 6:45PM

Pastor Eric Hanson • Cell: 612-834-2149 • E: [anspachh2002@gmail.com](mailto:anspachh2002@gmail.com)

[www.stlukegoodhue.org](http://www.stlukegoodhue.org) • P: 651-923-4695 • E: [office@stlukegoodhue.org](mailto:office@stlukegoodhue.org) • FB: [@stlukegoodhue](https://www.facebook.com/stlukegoodhue)

Organist: Debbi St. John • Administrative Assistant: Tara Marklevits

Faith Formation Facilitator: Nicole Wananda • Treasurer: Sara Nolte