



Joy in the Gospel

*“Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like streams in the Negeb!” (Psalm 126:4)*

Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

Serve the LORD with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the LORD is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.

(Ps 100)

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, our Heavenly Father,

it is our heart's desire, our deepest longing,

to know you, to love you, and to worship you.

It is our greatest pleasure, our highest privilege,

our chief delight, to meet with you,

the one true and living God,

and experience your grace and favour.

Grant us power by your Holy Spirit

to worship you now, in Spirit and in truth.

Amen.

Valley of Vision

Psalm 104 (My Soul, Bless the Lord)

My soul, bless the Lord!
The Lord is most great,
with glory arrayed,
majestic His state;
the light is His garment,
the skies are His shade,
and over the waters
His courts He has laid.

He rides on the clouds,
the wings of the storm,
the lightning and wind
His bidding perform;
the earth He has founded;
it firmly shall stand,
with waters its clothing
ordained from His hand.

He waters the hills
with rain from the skies,
and plentiful grass
and herbs He supplies,
gives food to the cattle,
and blesses our toil
with bread in abundance,
with wine and with oil.

The trees which the Lord
has planted are fed,
and over the earth
their branches are spread;
they keep in their shelter
the birds of the air,
the life of each creature
the Lord makes His care.

Your Spirit, O Lord,
makes life to abound,
the earth is renewed,
and fruitful the ground;
to God be all glory
and wisdom and might,
let God in His creatures
forever delight.

Rejoicing in God,
my thought shall be sweet,
while sinners depart
in ruin complete;
my soul, bless Jehovah,
His name be adored;
come praise Him, you people,
and worship the Lord!

Trinity Hymnal (Rev. ed.) #126

Confession and Assurance

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.’” (John 15:9-12)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.” (Joel 2:12-13)

So we will confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour.

Please kneel or be seated.

Prayer of Confession

Have mercy on us, O God,

according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy, blot out our transgressions.

Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin!

For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us.

Against you, you only, have we sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgement.

Hide your face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquities.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit.

O Lord, open our lips, and our mouths will declare your praise.

For you will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it;

you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

Our sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. (Ps. 51)

Assurance of Pardon

“Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” (Eph 2:12-13)

At the Name of Jesus

At the name of Jesus
Ev'ry knee shall bow,
Ev'ry tongue confess him
King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure
We should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners,
Amongst whom he came.
Faithfully he bore it,
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious
When from death he passed.

In your hearts enthrone him!
There let him subdue
All that is not holy,
All that is not true.
Crown him as your Captain,
In temptation's hour;
Let his will enfold you
In its light and pow'r.

Kindred, this Lord Jesus
Shall return again
With his Father's glory,
With his angel train,
For all wreaths of empire
Meet upon his brow,
And our hearts confess him
King of glory now.

Caroline M. Noel (1870)

God's Word

First Reading: Phil 4:4-10, p. 982

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Responsive Text: Isaiah 51:1-11

“Listen to me, you who pursue
righteousness, you who seek the LORD:
look to the rock from which you were
hewn, and to the quarry from which you
were dug.

**Look to Abraham your father and to
Sarah who bore you; for he was but
one when I called him, that I might
bless him and multiply him.**

For the LORD comforts Zion; he
comforts all her waste places and makes
her wilderness like Eden, her desert like
the garden of the LORD; joy and
gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

**“Give attention to me, my people, and
give ear to me, my nation; for a law
will go out from me, and I will set my
justice for a light to the peoples.**

My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out, and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me, and for my arm they wait.

Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

“Listen to me, you who know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear not the reproach of man, nor be dismayed at their revilings.

For the moth will eat them up like a garment, and the worm will eat them like wool, but my righteousness will be forever, and my salvation to all generations.”

Second Reading: Psalm 126, p. 517

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Joy in the Gospel (Mark Payne)

Psalm 126 (When the Lord Brought Back the Captives)

When the Lord
brought back the captives,
We were like the ones who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter;
Did our tongue with rapture sing!
Then they said among the nations,
"How the Lord has done great things!"
How the Lord raised up our station;
In our heart great gladness rings!

Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago.

Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces, who pierced the dragon?

Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made the depths of the sea a way for the redeemed to pass over?

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and shall be forever,
age after age. Amen!**

From our bonds, Lord,
give us freedom,
As the streams flow in the south.
Those who sow in tears shall gather,
Full of glad and joyful shouts.
He who plants in sorrow, weeping,
Bringing forth his precious seed,
Shall return with joyous singing,
Bearing with him all his sheaves.

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Music: © 2020 Dan Kreider.

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us 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**

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, simply allow the bread and wine to pass by, and reflect on what is taking place.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Father, as we have received these gifts of bread and wine,
you have fed us with the spiritual food of the body and blood
of our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love,
and that we are members of his body.**

**Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son,
and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall.

*"Honour the LORD with your wealth
and with the first-fruits of all your produce." (Prov 3:9)*

Good Christians All, Rejoice

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart, and soul, and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow,
and He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart, and soul, and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss,
Jesus Christ was born for this;

He hath op'ed the heavenly door,
and all are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart, and soul, and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save,
Calls you one and calls you all,
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

J. M. Neale

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
**In the Name of Christ,
Amen.**

Notices for Calendars & Prayers

Tue 16 th Dec	Food & Chat	Ref Jenny
Thu 18 th Dec	Prayer Meeting @ Finch's	7pm
Sat 20 th Dec	Carol Service	5pm

Advent Series to Christmas

Sun 7 th Dec	Need for the Gospel (Zech 3:1-10)	10am
Today	Joy in the Gospel (Psalm 126)	10am
Sun 21 st Dec	Peace of the Gospel (Zech 8:1-23)	10am
Thu 25 th Dec	Consummation of the Gospel (Zech 9:9-13)	** 9:30am **