



Grace Lutheran Church Redcliffe
Service Order For 12th December,
Third Sunday of Advent



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

LORD God, loving Father:
You promise restoration and wholeness
through the power of Jesus Christ.
Kindle in us the fire of Your Spirit
and renew Your Church in holiness
and help us to serve You with joy;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE: Philippians 4:6-7

*Do not worry about anything,
but pray and ask God for everything you need,
always giving thanks.*

**And God's peace,
which is so great we cannot understand it,
will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.**

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

THE CANDLES OF ADVENT
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY

Today is the third Sunday of Advent. The third candle of Advent is the Candle of Joy. It reminds of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her - a child who would save and deliver His people.

God wants us all to have joy. The angel who announced to the shepherds that Jesus had been born told them: "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all people - for to you is born this day, in the City of David, a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Let us pray:

Loving God, we thank You for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. May Your joy radiate in our lives that those around us may find warmth in your joy, now and forever. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

We sing the song "The Candle of Joy" as we light this candle to remember that Christ brings the promise of a new life, and He is the bringer of true and everlasting joy.

The Candle of Joy

Tune LHS 454: Hanover

**The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
for God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.**

**Then let us adore, and give Him His right;
all glory and power, all wisdom and might,
all honour and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never-ceasing, and infinite love.**

CONFESSION

*Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins,
and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.*

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor helpless sinner, confess to You all my sins, and repent of all the evil I have done. I have deeply displeased You and deserve Your punishment in time and in eternity. But I am sorry for my sins, and I ask You, for the sake of the holy innocent sufferings and death of Your dear Son Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He has given the right to become children of God, and has given them His Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

INTROIT: Isaiah 12:2-6

² *“Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and He has become my salvation.”*

The LORD GOD is my strength and my song.

³ *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

⁴ *And you will say in that day:
“Give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name,
make known His deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that His name is exalted.*

The LORD GOD is my strength and my song.

⁵ *“Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.*

⁶ *Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”*

The LORD GOD is my strength and my song.

**Glory to the Father
and the Son
and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now,
and will be forever.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray that we may receive Christ with joy.
[silence]

Jesus, our promised Messiah,
John the Baptist went ahead of you
and proclaimed the good news
of your coming.
Encourage us to receive you with joy
as our redeemer,
and faithfully follow you.
For you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20 The Lord will renew us by His love

¹⁴ Sing, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your judgments, He has cast out your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you will see evil no more. ¹⁶ On that day it will be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands be slack. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst, a Mighty One, who will save. He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will renew you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing. ¹⁸ I will gather those who grieve for the appointed festival, which is a reproach and burden on you. ¹⁹ At that time I will deal with all who oppress you; I will save the lame and gather the outcast; I will give them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice! The Lord is near

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Someone is coming who will baptise you
with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18 The preaching of John the Baptist.

Before the reading

Glory be to You, O LORD.

⁷ When the crowds came to John for baptism, he said, “You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee God’s coming wrath? ⁸ Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. ⁹ Even now the axe of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ The crowds asked, “What should we do?” ¹¹ John replied, “If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.” ¹² Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptised and asked, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³ He replied, “Collect no more taxes than the government requires.” ¹⁴ “What should we do?” asked some soldiers. John replied, “Don’t extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay.” ¹⁵ Everyone was expecting the Messiah to come soon, and they were eager to know whether John might be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered their questions by saying, “I baptise you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I’m not even worthy to be His slave and untie the straps of His sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷ He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with His winnowing fork. Then He will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into His barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire.” ¹⁸ John used many such warnings as he announced the Good News to the people.

After the reading

This is the gospel of the LORD.

Praise be to You, O Christ.

Thank you, Lord Jesus,
for coming as the promised Messiah.
Lead us to repentance and faith.
Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

Christ in Me Arise (click [here](#))

**Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness.
Christ in me arise with Your power and Your strength.
Christ in me pour out Your blessing and healing.
Christ in me arise and I shall rise with You.**

**Be now my vision; open these eyes, showing me all that I must see.
Onward to the kingdom, You are the way.
Arise in me and I shall rise with You.**

**Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness.
Christ in me arise with Your power and Your strength.
Christ in me pour out Your blessing and healing.
Christ in me arise and I shall rise with You.**

**Be now my footsteps, leading the way, taking me where I must go.
Onward to the kingdom, You are the way.
Arise in me and I shall rise with You.**

**Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness.
Christ in me arise with Your power and Your strength.
Christ in me pour out Your blessing and healing.
Christ in me arise and I shall rise with You.**

**You know my heart and You know my ways,
You who formed me in my mother's womb.
I live and move in You, my whole being thrives in You.**

**Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness.
Christ in me arise with Your power and Your strength.
Christ in me pour out Your blessing and healing.
Christ in me arise, Christ in me arise,
Christ in me arise and I shall rise with You.**

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SERMON

At this point you may wish to Listen to Sermon, or Read and Discuss the Sermon
The Sermon online may be different to the manuscript.
For LCA Worship Resources (click [here](#))

AT 20: Come. Lord Jesus, come (click [here](#))

**Come, Lord Jesus, come into this weary world.
O, how we long for You to come, Lord, come.**

**Wars have come and wars have gone; Come, Lord, come!
Still the cry goes up, 'How long?' Come, Lord, come!
Come, Lord Jesus, come into this weary world.
O, how we long for You to come, Lord, come.**

**Hearts are braking, tears fall down; Come, Lord come!
Come and free us, we are bound. Come, Lord come!
Come, Lord Jesus, come into this weary world.
O, how we long for You to come, Lord, come.**

**Darkness grows as night wears one; Come, Lord come!
Will we live to see the dawn? Come, Lord come!
Come, Lord Jesus, come into this weary world.
O, how we long for You to come, Lord, come.**

**Nations rise and nations fall; Come, Lord come!
God is with us through it all. Come, Lord come!
Come, Lord Jesus, come into this weary world.
O, how we long for You to come, Lord, come.**

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

St Paul reminded us that we should not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication - and with thanksgiving! - make our requests known to God. Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, as John the Baptist did not fail to confess, but testified to your Son, so help us to bear witness to the light. Give us wisdom, so that we may say "No" to those things which point away from Christ and "Yes" to that which glorifies him.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for the beauty and abundance of the earth. Give us and all people grace to live in harmony with your creation, wisdom and generosity in our use of its bounty.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for leaders who serve the common good. Give wisdom to those who have responsibility and authority in every land, that we may share with justice the resources of the world, and work together in trust. Prosper the work of Australian Lutheran World Service through generous contributions this Christmas, and good relations with the communities and governments whom they seek to assist.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for this land and the diversity of its peoples. Grant that we may honour one another and that all people may be enriched by our common heritage and freed from despair, poverty and exclusion.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for the good news of salvation for all people. Strengthen us for our work in the world, empower your Church to proclaim the gospel in service, word and sacrament. Unite in the truth all who confess your name, that we may live together in love to your glory. We give you thanks for the new pastors in the LCA, and ask that you would help them and their families settle in well and start their work with great joy.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We give thanks for the fellowship of the communities in which we live and work. We commend to your safe keeping our families, those with whom we work and learn, our neighbours and our friends. Enable us by your Spirit to live in love for you and for one another.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We give thanks that you are the God who brings mercy and wholeness. Comfort and heal, we pray, all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or any other trouble. Give to those who care for them wisdom, patience and gentleness and, to us all, your peace.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

We give you thanks for your servants in every age. Grant that we, with John the Baptist and all your saints, may be brought to a joyful resurrection and the fulfillment of your kingdom.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord, you alone know our true needs and desires. Shed your light on our lives and hearts, keep us walking in your path, and hear the prayers that we have offered in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours
now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Let us bless the LORD.
God be praised forevermore.
Sing praises to the LORD, for He has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.
The LORD bless us and keep us.
The LORD make His face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The LORD look upon us with favour, and give us peace.
Amen!

GROWING FAITH AT HOME BLESSING

*May the Lord Jesus
watch over your heart and your mind
and give you His peace.*
**May the Lord Jesus
watch over your heart and your mind
and give you His peace.**

WORDS OF SENDING

*The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
Go in peace.*

In the name of Christ. Amen.

May the peace of God (Benediction Hymn) (click [here](#))

**May the peace of God, our heav'nly Father, and the grace of Christ, the risen Son,
and the fellowship of God the Spirit keep our hearts and minds within His love.**

**And to Him be praise for His glorious reign; from the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
we declare the name of the Lamb once slain: Christ eternal, the King of Kings.**

**May this peace which passes understanding, and this grace which makes us what we are,
and this fellowship of His communion, make us one in spirit and in heart.**

**And to Him be praise for His glorious reign; from the depths of earth to the heights of heaven
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Christ eternal, the King of Kings.**

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HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

LHS

- 9 Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes G6
13 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry G4
733 Daughter of Zion, O rejoice G6
739 When the King shall come again G4

AT

- 333 You are our God

Second reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Any hymn of praise, in particular:

LHS

- 115 Rejoice! the Lord is king G7
147 O Morning Star, so bright and fair* G3
378 Fill Thou my life, O Lord my God G7
870 Lord of all hopefulness G6

AT

- 8 Praise and thanksgiving
259 Let us praise the God of truth
385 If there ever was a time
405 Lord of all hopefulness

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

LHS

- 6 Ye sons of men, in earnest* G3
13 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry G4
119 Come down, O Love divine G9
130 O enter, Lord, Thy temple* G4
798 Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round G6

AT

- 217 Shine, Jesus, shine