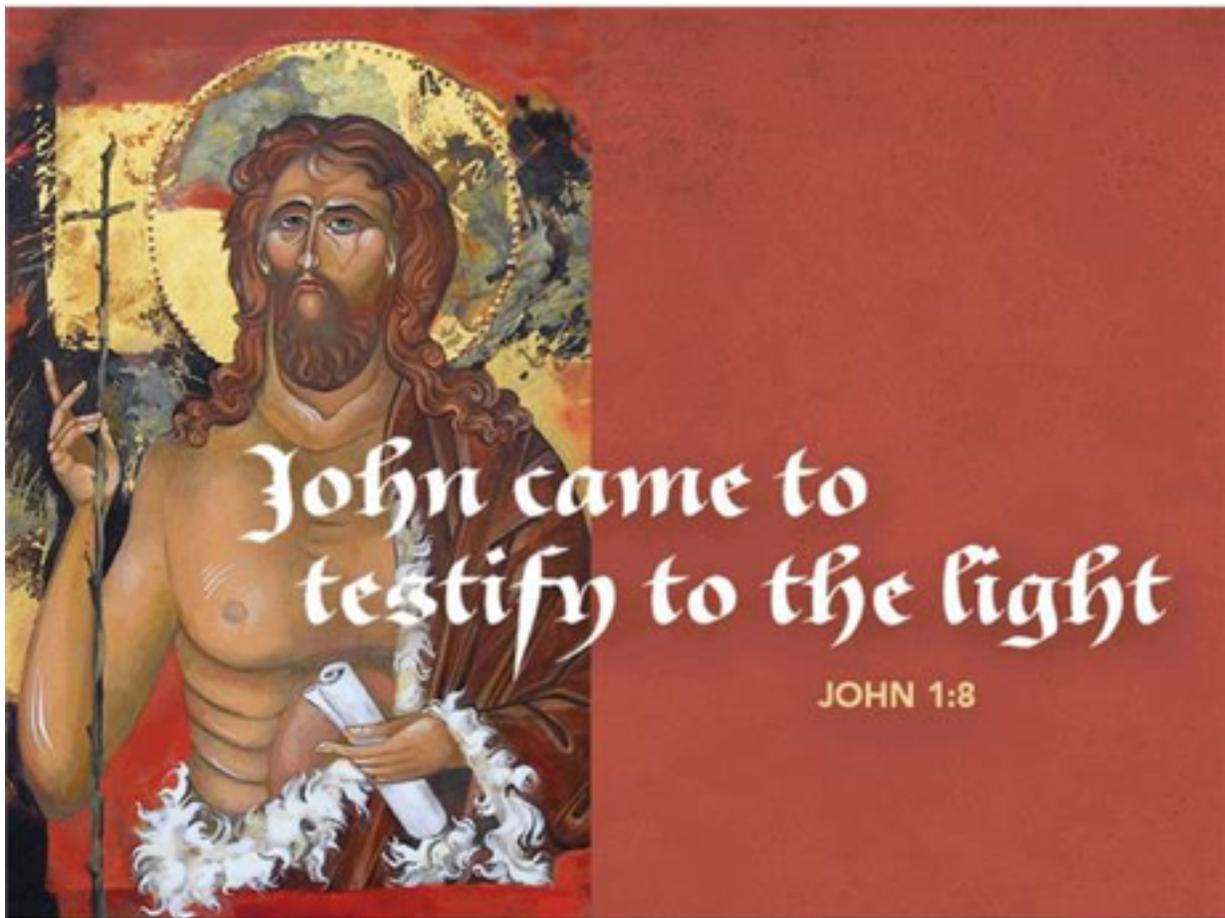


# Joy Lutheran Church

10111 E. Eagle River Loop Road, Eagle River, AK 99577

Office: 907.694.9601 [www.joy-lutheran.com](http://www.joy-lutheran.com) [joylutheran@gmail.com](mailto:joylutheran@gmail.com)

December 13, 2020



## Third Sunday of Advent

# Welcome to worship at Joy Lutheran Church

We are glad you are here, if you come every Sunday or if this is your first time at our church or any church at all. You're welcome if you know the Bible backwards and forwards, or have never really read it, if you know Jesus or are just curious to hear what He is all about.

We especially welcome those who could use a prayer right now, or an assurance that God loves them, those who are struggling, and those who are doing okay.

Whoever you are, whatever your past or present – God welcomes you as do we!

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## **LIST OF MITIGATION RULES FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP**

1. Wear your face mask. We have extras if you need one. Pastor will be more than 10 ft away and remove her mask while presiding.
2. Keep 3 empty chairs (ie 6 ft.) between you and anyone not in your household.
3. No use of hymnals.
4. Keep your mask on during singing and do not sing boisterously. Studies show that singing projects more air than coughing.
5. We will limit the worship service to approximately 35 minutes. The longer people share the same air space the greater the chance of spreading germs.
6. No contact during the passing of the peace. Stay at 6 ft. distances - sharing a peace sign, wave, hand over heart, or clasped hands and bow.
7. Offering plates are in stationary positions near entryways to avoid the passing of the plate. Thank you for your offerings!
8. We ask you to **FILL OUT THE SHEET OF PAPER** inside your bulletin and place it in the offering plate.
9. As you are dismissed, exit in a staggered rhythm to decrease proximity to one another.
10. If you use a bathroom, please clean all touchable surfaces before and after usage. Spray disinfectant and paper towels are available in each bathroom.
11. If you would like to visit after worship, we ask you maintain 6 ft. distances.
12. All coffee and food is suspended at this time - an exception is we will offer prepackaged food-to-go for Sunday School students.

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### Introduction

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

### Welcome/Apostolic Greeting

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,

**C: and also with you.**

### Advent Confession

**L:** Lord God,  
we praise you for sending light into this world.  
We confess that we live as though  
the light had never defeated darkness.  
We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent  
to be among us and to live in us.  
We’ve kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season  
and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts.

**C: Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus.**

**Prepare us for His return.**

**Help us rejoice in the light  
so that your grace can illuminate  
the darkened places of our hearts.**

**Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

**L:** 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.**



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

### 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;  
 he 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 his glory.

<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 he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he 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.

### Second Reading

#### ***1 Thessalonians 5:16-24***

*Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

### Gospel Reading

#### ***Luke 1:26-38***

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings,

avored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

**Pastor Karen Sonray**

Special Music

***Magnificat***  
(by M. Haugen)

**Mona Mitton**

*1. My soul proclaims your greatness, Oh God,  
and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here,  
and blessed me all my life through.  
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,  
strong is your kindness evermore.  
How you favor the weak and lowly one,  
humbling the proud of heart.*

*2. You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,  
and up lifted the humble of heart,  
You have filled the hungry with your wondrous things,  
and left the wealthy no part.  
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,  
strong is your justice strong your love,  
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham,  
kindness for evermore.*

*3. My soul proclaims your greatness, Oh God,  
and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here,  
and blessed me all my life through.*

## Prayers

### Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*(please exchange Christ's peace with a smile, nod, wave, or other non-contact sign)*

### Holy Communion

We celebrate God's grace and acceptance in the Meal of Holy Communion. You are welcome to join us at the Lord's Table. We believe that Jesus is truly present with us at this Meal, and his invitation to hear his promise of forgiveness and love is for everyone.



### 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;**

**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.**

### Communion Protocol

- *There is a gluten free option available. Let Pr. Karen know if you prefer gluten free.*
- *The wafers and juice are combined in individual sealed servings.*
- *Please come forward in staggered intervals, take your communion, return to seat. We will all partake at the same time after everyone has returned to their seats.*



1 What feast of love is of-fered here, what ban-quet come from heav-en?  
 2 What light of truth is of-fered here, what cov-e-nant from heav-en?  
 3 What wine of love is of-fered here, what crim-son drink from heav-en?



What food of ev-er-last-ing life, what gra-cious gift is giv-en?  
 What hope of ev-er-last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv-en?  
 What stream of ev-er-last-ing life, what pre-cious blood is giv-en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav-en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav-en.  
 This, this is Christ the king, the sweet-est wine of heav-en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man-na giv-en!  
 Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv-en!  
 Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv-en!

Benediction

L: Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Flowers are given  
 by the Lanehart family  
 in celebration of AbieLiz's birthday



Worship Assistants for Today			
<b>Pianist:</b> Nancy Wojnowski	<b>Reader:</b> Scooter Bentson	<b>Acolyte:</b> Hazel Simasko	<b>Song Leaders:</b> Mona Mitton

# Christmas Eve Worship Services

- \* 5:30 pm (indoor), and
- \* 8:00 pm (outdoor upper parking lot)

We would like you to SIGN UP for the indoor service as space is limited. Sign Up sheet is on bulletin board. Mid-Week Advent Services:

## Holden Evening Prayer

The mid-week Advent service is posted online at our Joy Lutheran Facebook page on either Tuesday or Wednesday throughout Advent, and remains there so you can access it at a time convenient for you.



## Holy Communion Offered Today

- At our 9:30 AM Worship, and
- At a "Drive In" Communion opportunity 11:30 - 12 Noon West Parking Lot



**Poinsettias** - We are ordering 12 potted poinsettias for the Christmas Eve altar. If you'd like to sponsor one of them, please sign up on the Opportunities bulletin board. They are \$15.

## Ice Candle Luminary Makers Needed

Ice candle luminaries needed for the outdoor Christmas Eve service. See Pr. Karen.

## The Worship Assistant Signup Sheet is Back!

We're going to start using a signup sheet again for volunteer worship assistants. It's on the Opportunities bulletin board.

**FOOD BANK** needs donations... It's a rough time of year for many families. Bring donations (chili, soup, meats, TP especially needed) to the Church or write a check and earmark it for Food Bank.

**The TBA Theater Company** (non-profit) has given hours of their time and expertise to put together our Christmas Film "Pageant" this year. Special donations appreciated. Earmark your check for TBA . Or give electronically (see Joy's website), select "special offering" and send an email to [joylutheran@gmail.com](mailto:joylutheran@gmail.com) stating it is for TBA.