



**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**  
January 31, 2021

**AS WE GATHER:** Merry, merry ...January??!!? Probably not. The sunlight is short. The days feel long. Not only that, but the world is no better in the beginning days of 2021 than the last year. There's just as much conflict, anger and frustration as before. We just don't *feel* happy. Well, life hasn't changed much in 2000 years. The Philippians lived in the same world we do and despite the difficulties they encountered on a day-to-day basis, the Apostle Paul encouraged them multiple times to rejoice as they follow Jesus. Happy is temporary and based on a feeling. Joy is eternal. Happiness is elusive; whereas Paul taught our brothers and sisters in Philippi that joy is a gift that can be enjoyed whenever because that's what we receive from Jesus - it can't be taken away (even by January). Join us as we study Paul's letter to the Philippians in our sermon series entitled Joy in January.

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN #700**                      *"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"*

- 1        Love divine, all loves excelling,  
          Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
          Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
          All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
          Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
          Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
          Visit us with Thy salvation,  
          Enter ev'ry trembling heart.
  
- 2        Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
          Into ev'ry troubled breast;  
          Let us all in Thee inherit;  
          Let us find Thy promised rest.  
          Take away the love of sinning;  
          Alpha and Omega be;  
          End of faith, as its beginning,  
          Set our hearts at liberty.

- 3      Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
          Let us all Thy life receive;  
          Suddenly return, and never,  
          Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
          Thee we would be always blessing,  
          Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
          Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
          Glory in Thy perfect love.
- 4      Finish then Thy new creation,  
          Pure and spotless let us be;  
          Let us see Thy great salvation  
          Perfectly restored in Thee,  
          Changed from glory into glory,  
          Till in heav'n we take our place,  
          Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
          Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

#### INVOCATION

Pastor:        In the name of the Father and of the Son and of  
                  the Holy Spirit.

People:        **Amen.**

#### OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor:        Clap your hands, all peoples!

People:        **Shout to God with loud songs of joy!**

Pastor:        For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,

People:        **A great king over all the earth.**

Pastor:        God has gone up with a shout,

People:        **The LORD with the sound of a trumpet.**

Pastor:        Sing praises to God, sing praises!

People:        **Sing praises to our King, sing praises!**

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor:        Embraced by the love of God through our Baptism  
                  into Christ, we confess our sin before God and one  
                  another.

                  Captive to sin, we have sinned against You, God of  
                  love, in thought, word, and deed.

People:        **In Your great love for us in Christ, forgive our  
                  sins and renew our lives.**

Pastor: We have shown lack of trust in Your loving purpose for our lives.  
People: **In Your great love for us in Christ, forgive our sins and renew our lives.**

Pastor: We have failed to immerse ourselves in Your Word and to speak it freely in the world.  
People: **In Your great love for us in Christ, forgive our sins and renew our lives.**

Pastor: We have failed to love You and to love one another, even using our faith as an excuse not to love our neighbors.  
People: **In Your great love for us in Christ, forgive our sins and renew our lives.**

Pastor: We have been envious, boastful, arrogant, rude, insistent, irritable, and resentful.  
People: **In Your great love for us in Christ, forgive our sins and renew our lives.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People: **Amen.**

#### SONG OF PRAISE

#737, vs. 1,2,3,6,7      *“Rejoice, My Heart Be Glad and Sing”*

- 1      Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing,  
         A cheerful trust maintain;  
         For God, the source of ev’rything,  
         Your portion shall remain.
- 2      He is your treasure, He your joy,  
         Your life and light and Lord,  
         Your counselor when doubts annoy,  
         Your shield and great reward.
- 3      Why spend the day in blank despair,  
         In restless thought the night?  
         On your Creator cast your care;  
         He makes your burdens light.

- 6 His wisdom never plans in vain  
Nor falters nor mistakes.  
All that His counsels may ordain  
A blessed ending makes.
- 7 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand,  
And trust His guiding love;  
Then like a rock your peace shall stand  
Here and in heav'n above.

### SALUTATION

Pastor The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace and joy through all our days and in every circumstance; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
People: Amen.

### FIRST READING

Micah 6:6-8

*“With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”  
<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“It is Well”

Miss Heidi

### EPISTLE

Philippians 4:1, 4-9

*Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand) "Alleluia"

All: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-40

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.  
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup>"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. <sup>32</sup>Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. <sup>33</sup>And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? <sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

**INTERVIEW**

**“Joy in Whatever”  
Pastor Seth Flick**

**HYMN OF THE DAY (Please stand)**

**#763**

*“When Peace, Like a River”*

1      When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;  
          When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;  
          Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
          It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:      It is well (It is well)  
                  with my soul, (with my soul),  
                  It is well, it is well with my soul.

2      Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
          Let this blest assurance control,  
          That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate  
          And hath shed His own blood for my soul. Refrain...

3      He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
          My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
          Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.  
          Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain...

4      And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,  
          The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
          The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
          Even so it is well with my soul. Refrain...

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**All:        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,  
          died, and was 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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND TIME OF THANKSGIVING**

Sunday, February 14 at 11:45 AM, in the gym, will be the Voters' Call Meeting to extend a Divine Call to Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador to serve as Executive Pastor. His bio and information are available at the rear of the church and gym.

Politics and Christianity at DR. How do I even navigate these political changes as a person who follows Jesus? How can I be a citizen of Christ's kingdom of grace AND the kingdom of this world? We know that these are questions that you are asking, so we invite you to participate in person for a live streamed online zoom presentation called "GOD AT WORK - A TWO-KINGDOM EXERCISE IN THE AMERICAN CONTEXT: Concerns, Trends, Victories, Engagements." with Dr. Selz of the LCRL (Lutheran Center for Religious Liberties - Washington DC) Dr. Selz is a former Lutheran hour speaker. He will meet with us via a Live streamed Zoom meeting here at Divine Redeemer's sanctuary on February 10 at 6:30 PM. Further instructions will be provided via an email blasts soon if you do not wish to participate in person.

The deadline to order our cookbook is TOMORROW. Please visit [drlc.org/cookbook](http://drlc.org/cookbook) to place your order or see the big red wood boxes in the school lobby or Narthex and place your order there.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Embraced by the love of God for us in Jesus, let us bring our prayers to God, trusting in His promise to deliver us in the midst of trouble.

Everlasting God, empower Your Church throughout the world to show forth the Gospel everywhere with patience and kindness. Give the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of the Synod a full measure of patience and kindness in our interactions with one another. Preserve us from discord and public arguments that bring out the worst in us. Let the love You have shown us so embrace our lives that the world may notice and turn to You. God of love,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God, bless the leaders of nations, our president and congress, our governors, and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces, and lift up refugees and

all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies, and let Your peace in Christ reign over this broken world. God of love,  
**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Gracious God, come to the aid of all who are in need. As Jesus humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to humbly enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying to offer comfort and hope. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring so much suffering to the world, that their work lead to healing for many. God of love,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Merciful God, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among both the families of this congregation and all families. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel, and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families, that their homes be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. God of love,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** In addition to these prayers that we have spoken, we know that You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts, and hear also those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All of our prayer we entrust to Your abiding love in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People:** Amen.

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**All:** 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.



## BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be  
gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you  
peace.

**People:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

*“Rejoice! The Lord is King”*

Rejoice, the Lord is King!  
Your Lord and King adore;  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,  
And triumph evermore:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice; again I say, Rejoice!

Our Savior Jesus reigns,  
The God of truth and love;  
When he had purged our stains,  
He took his seat above:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice; again I say, Rejoice!  
His Kingdom cannot fail;  
He rules o’er earth and heav’n;  
The keys of death and hell  
Are to our Jesus giv’n:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice; again I say, Rejoice!

He sits at God’s right hand  
Till all his foes submit  
And bow to his command  
And fall beneath his feet:  
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;  
Rejoice; again I say, Rejoice!

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.  
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### **Lay Readers:**

8:00AM: John Uttech

10:30AM: Todd Radke

### **Acolytes:**

8:00AM: Harrison Glor & Daniel Cleary

10:30AM: Sarah Stippich & Ethan Neuberger

### **Sound:**

8:00AM: Shannon Bader

10:30AM: Amelia Sitzberger

**Elders:**

8:00AM: John Uttech

10:30AM: Paul Ewan