

Midweek Advent Week 3  
*Clothed in Conviction*



December 13, 2023  
Morrison Zion Lutheran Church



**MORRISON  
ZION  
LUTHERAN**

Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to  
**Glorify God**  
as we  
**Gather**  
around the Gospel  
to help people  
**Grow**  
in the Gospel  
and  
**Go**  
with the Gospel

**Welcome!** We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

Advent Midweek 3

December 13, 2023

**The Clothing of the King – Clothed in Conviction**

This midweek Advent Sermon Series tells the stories of the clothing of the King. Stories that describe a wardrobe at once splendid and sin-stained, with fabrics that reveal who we are and cover us all the same. The clothing of the King is tattered and worn and glorious in its incorruptibility. It isn't ours, yet he gives it to us freely.

**Gathering Rite**  
*My Soul in Stillness Waits CWS 703*

*Stand*

*Refrain*

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,

your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the

hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.

M: We wait in hope for the LORD ; he is our help and our shield.

**C: In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.**

M: May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you (Ps 33:20-23)

*Refrain*

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

M: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

**C: according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions**

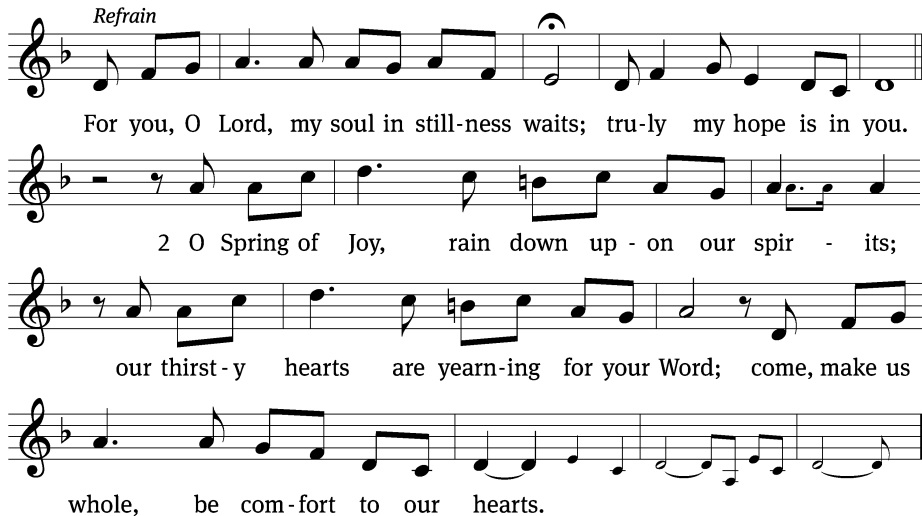
M: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. (Ps 51:1-2; 32:1)

M: If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.**

M: I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. (Ps 130:3-5)

*Refrain*



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;

our thirst-y hearts are yearn-ing for your Word; come, make us

whole, be com-fort to our hearts.

M: I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

C: **Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.**

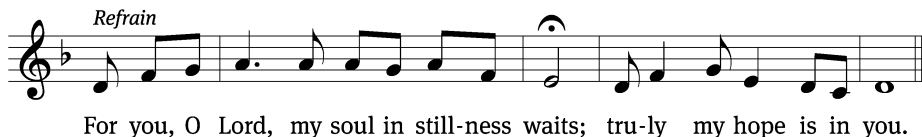
M: He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins. (Ps 130:6-8)

M: My heart is not proud, LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me

C: **But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content.**

M: Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore. (Ps 131)

*Refrain*



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

## Lighting of the Advent Candle

**M:** We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the light of the world. He came to cast out the prince of darkness.

**C:** We remember Jesus who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

**M:** We hear his call to see the light.

**C:** We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.

**M:** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C:** Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Three Advent candles are lit.



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

## Reading

## Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist was the one who was promised who would come to prepare the way for the Jesus, the Messiah. He told people the kingdom of God was near, to repent, and baptized many.

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"<sup>[Isaiah 40:3]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (NIV)

## Hymn

*Behold, a Branch is Growing* CW 47: 1-2, 5



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and  
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise  
5 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



grace! As proph-ets sang, fore-know-ing, it springs from Jes - se's  
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and  
woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and bears one lit - tle flow'r in midst of  
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to  
foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.  
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.  
courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

Text: German, 16th cent.; (sts. 1–2): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt.  
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Devotion:

## Clothed in Conviction

**Jonah 3:6-10**

<sup>6</sup> When Jonah's warning reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust. <sup>7</sup> This is the proclamation he issued in Nineveh:

“By the decree of the king and his nobles:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink. <sup>8</sup> But let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence. <sup>9</sup> Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

<sup>10</sup> When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. (NIV)

## Offering

*Stand*

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

## Prayer

M: Dear Jesus, we look forward to your second Christmas. It will take place with your holy angels surrounding you and they will again sing – proclaiming “victory, rescue and good news” to all the world. It will be a moment of unparalleled peace and joy for us who look to you in faith.

Forgiven by your grace, washed in your holy blood, kept alive by your Word and Sacrament – stir in us a great desire to break our own silence to share your peace with others who don't yet believe in you. Stir in us a great desire to love our neighbor as you have loved us.

Jesus, we know you keep all your promises. And so we wait, we keep watch with spiritual vigilance, and we put our hope in you. Hear us as we join to pray:

**Luther's Morning Prayer** (*morning only*) *spoken in unison*

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

**Luther's Evening Prayer** (*evening only*) *spoken in unison*

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

## Blessing

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

C: Amen.

Be seated

## Hymn

*O Come, O come, Emmanuel* CW 23



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from  
3 O come, O Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen

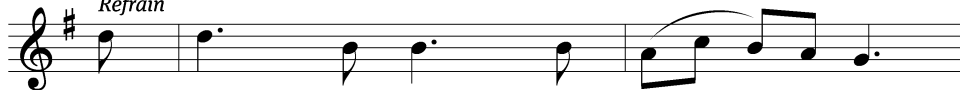


cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your  
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y  
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
peo - ple save, and bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.

### Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent., alt

Text and tune: Public domain

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My Soul in Stillness Waits

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# Join us for worship this Advent/Christmas Season

## Advent

Sunday, December 17 – 8 am & 10:30 am: MLHS Lancer Singer Sunday

Wednesday, December 20 – 11 am & 7 pm: Midweek Advent 4

## Christmas

Sunday, December 24 – 8 am: Advent/Christmas Hymn Sing

Sunday, December 24 – 10:30 am & 6 pm: Children's Christmas Eve Program

Sunday, December 24 – 11 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday, December 25 – 9 pm: Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 31 – 8 am & 10:30 am: New Year's Eve Worship w/ Communion

### Questions/Comments about Zion? Contact:

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