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***As a courtesy to others,
we ask that you please keep
conversations low and to a minimum.***

***Please make sure
all cell phones are silenced.***

Thank You.

A white dove is shown in flight, positioned at the top of a large, faint circular frame that resembles a globe. A cross is visible in the center of the globe. The background is a light, textured surface, possibly sand or a light-colored wall, with some green foliage visible in the upper right corner.

**Our mission is to share
the Good News
of grace and love with all
through worship, service,
and fellowship.**



Our Vision:
Joy is a spiritual community
sharing the love of Christ in a
challenging world.

A festive Advent wreath featuring three lit candles: two blue and one red. The candles are set against a dark blue background. In front of the candles is a large, ornate blue bow. The entire scene is decorated with a green garland, red berries, and gold and silver ornaments.

December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED

Jesus



P
R
E
L
U
D
E

(8:15) arr. Mark Hayes



P
R
E
L
U
D
E

(11:00 AM) – "As A Deer" - Martin Nystrom

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one
God, whose home is heaven and
earth, whose salvation is sure.

C: AMEN



P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long expected God

C: We confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide.



C: We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways
of war. We become impatient while
waiting and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to
live in harmony with our neighbors.



C: Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you
have promised. Amen.



P: God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own
righteousness. ✝ You are freed and
forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to
welcome the Savior.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

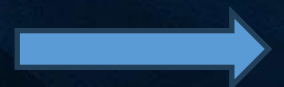
“Savior of the Nations, Come”

ELW # 263-verses 1-3

1

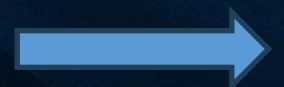
Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here
your home.

Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.



2

**Not by human flesh and blood,
but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh,
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.**



3

Wondrous birth—oh,
wondrous child—
from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son,
eager now his race to run!

Greeting

P: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Candle



“ADVENT’S HOLY NIGHT”

Verse 1, 2, & 3



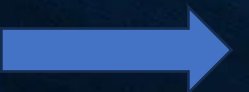
(Leader) 1. As we watch for the dawn
of a brighter day,
a candle of hope lights the way.
As we look for the signs
of the promised birth,
of a Savior who brings
heaven to earth.



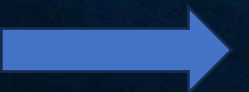
Refrain:

**Lord, we are waiting
for peace to reign.**

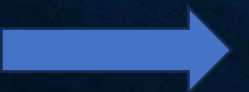
**Lord, we are listening
for love's refrain.**



**For hope, peace, and joy
and love to unite
in the beauty and wonder
of Advent's holy light.**

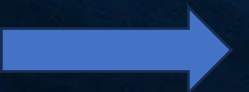


**(Leader) 2. As we watch for the
dawn of a brighter day,
a candle of peace lights the way.
As we look for the signs
of the promised birth,
of a Savior who brings
heaven to earth.**

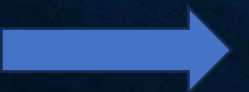


Refrain:

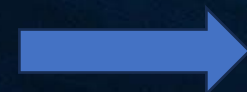
Lord, we are waiting
for peace to reign.
Lord, we are listening
for love's refrain.



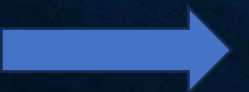
**For hope, peace, and joy
and love to unite
in the beauty and wonder
of Advent's holy light.**



**(Leader)3. As we watch for
the dawn of a brighter day,
a candle of joy lights the way.
As we look for the signs
of the promised birth,
of a Savior who brings heaven to earth.**



Refrain:
Lord, we are waiting
for peace to reign.
Lord, we are listening for
love's refrain.



**For hope, peace, and joy
and love to unite
in the beauty and wonder
of Advent's holy light.**

KYRIE

P Kyrie, eleison

C Lord, have mercy

P Christe, eleison

C Christ, have mercy

P Kyrie, eleison

C Lord, have mercy

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“Are
you
the
one
who
is to
come?”





Isaiah 35:1-10

The desert blooms as God's people return from exile



P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146:5-10

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)

**5 Happy are they who have the God
of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in
the | Lord their God;**



*⁶ who made heaven and earth,
the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises
forever;*



⁷ who gives justice to those
who are oppressed,
and food to | those who hunger.
The Lord sets the | captive free.



***⁸ The Lord opens the eyes of the
blind; the Lord lifts up those
who / are bowed down;
the Lord / loves the righteous. R***

***The Lord lifts up those who are
bowed down.***



⁹ The Lord cares I for the stranger;
the Lord sustains the orphan
and widow, but frustrates the
way I of the wicked.



***¹⁰ The Lord shall I reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout
all generations. I Hallelujah! R***

***The Lord lifts up those who are bowed
down.***



**Therefore be patient, brethren, until
the coming of the Lord**

James 5:7

**The FARMER waits for the
Precious Produce of the
Soil being patient about it**

**until it gets the
early and late rains.**

Knowing-Jesus.com

James 5:7-10

Patience until the coming of the Lord



P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC -8:15



“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”-Arr. Mark Hayes

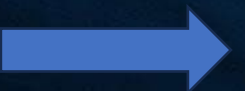
SPECIAL MUSIC -11:00



“Celebrate the Coming of the Lord”--JOY Choir

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Alleluia"



Leader: Alleluia, alleluia.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths:
For all flesh shall see the salvation
of our God.

All: Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.
Al----le----lu----ia.



**P : The Holy Gospel according to
Matthew 11:2-11
C: Glory to you, O Lord**



P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**Today's
Message
given by**

**Pastor
Art Wuertz**



***a moment of silence
for reflection***

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Christ Be Our Light”

ELW # 715

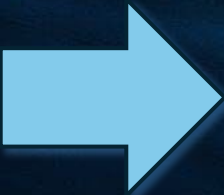


1

Longing for light,
we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth,
we turn to you.

Make us your own,
your holy people,
light for the world to see.



Refrain

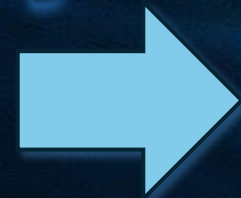
Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

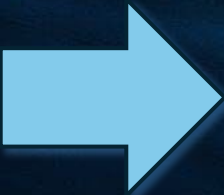


**2 Longing for peace,
our world is troubled.**

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice.



Refrain

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.



3

**Longing for food,
many are hungry.
Longing for water,
many still thirst.
Make us your bread,
broken for others,
shared until all are fed**



Refrain

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.



4

Longing for shelter,
many are homeless.

Longing for warmth,
many are cold.

Make us your building,
sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.



Refrain

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.



**Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come.**



Refrain

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**



**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**



**begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**



**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;**



**he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of
the Father.**



**He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,**



**who proceeds from the Father and
the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.**



We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.



**We look for the resurrection of the
dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

A pair of hands is shown clasped together in a prayer position, with fingers pointing upwards. The hands are positioned in the center-left of the frame. The background is a warm, golden-yellow color with a soft, out-of-focus bokeh effect, suggesting a bright light source like the sun. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

**Response after each petition is:
“Hear Our Prayer”**

Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the
Lord be with you
always.

C: And also
with you.

*(Share the sign of peace
in the manner you feel most comfortable.)*



OFFERTORY

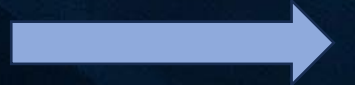


“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”-

CONGREGATIONAL OFFERTORY

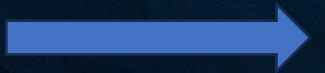
***“My Soul Proclaims Your
Greatness Lord”***

ELW # 251- verse 2



2

To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm
you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.



**The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled
with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.**

Offertory Prayer

A: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

C: Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.



**P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our
God.**

**C: It is right to give our thanks
and praise.**

It is indeed right...



SANCTUS

***“Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Hosts”***



**Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are
full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**



**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution



The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Here is life. God is with us.
Come, receive what God has promised.

C: Amen.

ALL baptized Christians are welcome
to receive the Lord's Supper.

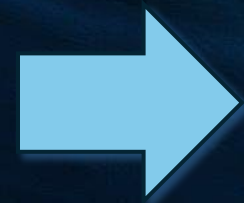
Altar rail communion will be observed today.

***Gluten-free wafers (distributed by Assistant Minister) and grape juice
(Clear juice in center of tray) are also offered, if desired.***

LAMB OF GOD



**Lamb of God,
you take away the
sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**



**Lamb of God,
you take away the
sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**



**Lamb of God,
you take away
the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“I Come With Joy”

ELW # 482



1

**I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**



2

**I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**



3

**As Christ breaks bread
and bids us share,
each proud division ends.**

**The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**



4

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.**



5

**Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

Distribution Hymn

“Seek Ye First”

CCLI # 1352



Verse 1

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things
Shall be added unto you
Allelu alleluia



Verse 2

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by ev'ry word
That proceeds
From the mouth of God
Allelu alleluia



Verse 3

Ask and it shall be given unto you
Seek and ye shall find
Knock and the door
Shall be opened unto you
Allelu alleluia

***“Let Us Break Bread
Together”***

ELW # 471



**1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.**

Refrain

**When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**



**2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees.**

Refrain

**When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**



**3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees.**

Refrain

**When I fall on my knees,
with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord
Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

A: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: May God who comes among us,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting,
peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and
always.

C: Amen.

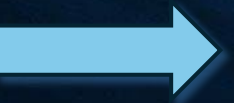
SENDING HYMN

“People Look East”


ELW # 248



**1 People, look east.
The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**



**2 Furrows, be glad.
Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength
the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.**



**3 Stars, keep the watch.
When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.**



**4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

Sending

A: Go in peace. Keep Awake.

C: Thanks be to God.



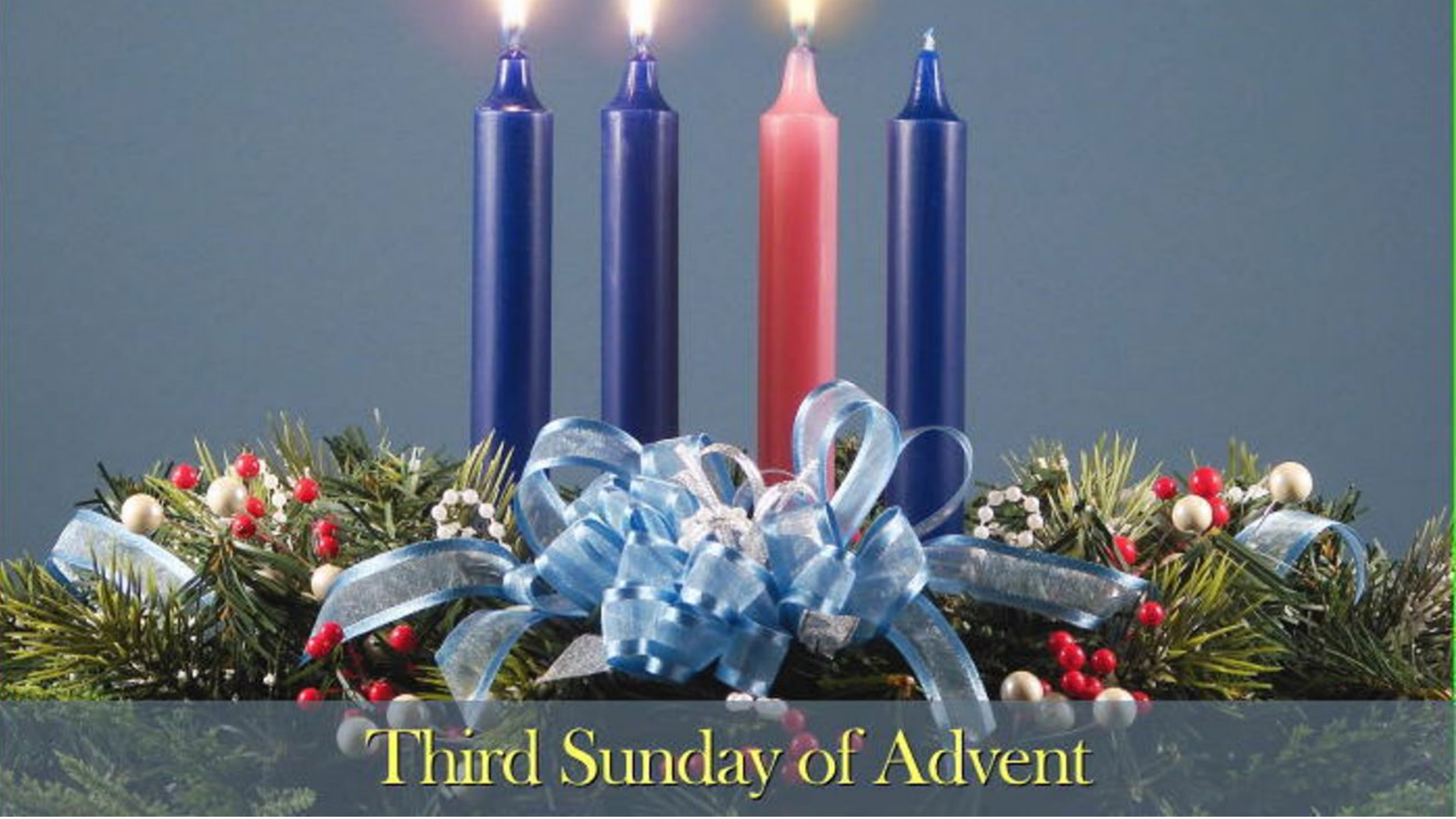
(8:15) "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"
arr. Richard Kingsmore

P
O
S
T
L
U
D
E

ADVENT JOY



(11:00) Bernard De La Monnoye and Ken Bible



Third Sunday of Advent