

Pulpit Announcements for the Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

**Welcome to all who are here today on this
3rd Sunday of Advent.**

**Whoever you are, or wherever you find yourself on the
journey. Know that here at St. Matthias, ALL ARE WELCOME!**

- **Time for Christmas presents. Our Eucharistic Revival Committee recommended a book on the Eucharist as a Christmas gift from St. Matthias to our families. Please take a copy of “Beautiful Eucharist” for your family. This book is a stunning collection of life-changing reflections about Jesus truly present in the Eucharist and wonderfully present in our lives.**
- **We congratulate Fr. Abraham, our pastor, as he celebrates **tomorrow / today** the 40th anniversary of his priestly ordination. We pray for God’s blessings upon him.**
- **Please see our Christmas schedule. We have a number of Masses on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day. Our choir will have a very special carol singing 40 minutes before the Midnight Mass. Come, sing, pray, and enjoy the heavenly melodies.**
- **If you have not joined our weekly Monday evening Adoration, this is a reminder. Do drop in this Monday any time between 6-8 pm.**

As we celebrate “Rejoice Sunday” we are reminded how close we are to Christmas! John the Baptist proclaims freedom and deliverance brought by the awaited Messiah, the Emmanuel.

Let us be ready to receive his blessings today ...

Music for Our Assembly

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near... Philippians 4:4-5

Gathering Hymn – O Come O Come Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.

3. O come, O come, O Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.

4. O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,
From ev'ry foe deliver them
That trust your mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Text: LM with refrain; 'O' Antiphons, Latin, 9th cent.; verses 1, 3–6 para. in Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John M. Neale, 1818–1866; verses 2, 7 tr. fr. The Hymnal 1940, alt. Music: Chant, Mode I; Processionale, French, 15th cent.; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811–1890.

Prayer of the Faithful

Third Sunday of Advent

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Our response is: “Lord of Joy, hear our prayer.”

1. For good health for Pope Francis as he celebrates his 87th birthday **tomorrow / today**, and for all religious leaders, and this faith community of St. Matthias...Inspire us to rejoice always and pray without ceasing for justice and peace on Earth, we pray. . .
2. For world, national, and local leaders...Send them forth to bring glad tidings of joy to all, with more efforts to bring peace and harmony to the war-torn regions of the world, we pray...
3. For Fr. Abraham who celebrates his 40th anniversary as a priest... May God bless him to continue to be a happy priest serving the People of God in holiness, we pray. . .
4. For comfort and consolation for all who are sick, sad, and suffering, especially those listed in our church bulletin...and for eternal rest for the souls of all who have died, especially **Patricia Perrotta**, we pray . . .
5. For those prayers we hold in the silence of our hearts (LONG PAUSE) we pray. . .

The presider announces the Mass intention and concludes.

Preparation Hymn – God Beyond All Names

1. God, beyond our dreams,
you have stirred in us a mem'ry;
you have placed your pow'ful spirit
in the hearts of humankind.

All around us we have known you,
all creation lives to hold you.
In our living and our dying
we are bringing you to birth.

2. God, beyond all names,
you have made us in your image;
we are like you, we reflect you;
we are woman, we are man.

3. God, beyond all words,
all creation tells your story;
you have shaken with our laughter,
you have trembled with our tears.

4. God, beyond all time,
you are laboring within us;
we are moving, we are changing
in your spirit ever knew.

5. God of tender care,
you have cradled us in goodness,
you have mothered us in wholeness,
you have loved us into birth.

Communion Hymn – Christ Circle Round Us

1. Come, O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of the morning light.
Come, Sun of Justice,
turn away the pow'r of night.

Christ, circle round us.

Christ, may your light surround us.

Shine in our living.

Fill our hearts with great thanksgiving.

2. Come, O Flow'r of Love,
holy branch of Jesse's tree.
Come, Bough of Blessing,
bloom for all the world to see.

3. Come, O Word of Truth,
font of knowledge from on high.
Come, Holy Wisdom,
be our faithful friend and guide.

4. Come, O Gate of Hope,
holy door of heaven's throne.
Come, Key of David,
open wide the pathway home.

5. Come, O Mighty Lord, master of the stars of night.
Come, Strength of Pilgrims, keep us in your loving sight.

6. Come, Emmanuel, cherished hope of Israel.
Come, live among us, ever in our hearts to dwell.

7. Come, Lord Jesus Christ, long awaited Prince of Peace.
Come, Hope of Nations, ever make our love increase.

*Text based on Advent 'O' Antiphons. Music based on Salve Regina (Chant, Mode V).
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Closing Hymn – Awake Awake and Greet the New Morn

1. Awake! awake, and greet the new morn,
For angels herald its dawning,
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
Behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
To bring all hearts together,
He opens wide the heav'nly door
And lives now inside us forever.
2. To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing,
His humble song is quiet and near,
Yet fills the earth with its ringing;
Music to heal the broken soul
And hymns of loving kindness,
The thunder of his anthems roll
To shatter all hatred and blindness.
3. In darkest night his coming shall be,
When all the world is despairing,
As morning light so quiet and free,
So warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
The lame shall leap in wonder,
The weak be raised above the strong,
And weapons be broken asunder.
4. Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night,
Though dark the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light,
Be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer,
And love, our endless story,
May God fill ev'ry day we share,
And bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.

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Responsorial Psalm – Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked upon his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

My soul rejoices in my God.