



February 24, 2020 — JOY

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church

CALL TO WORSHIP

- ℒ In the midst of cold days, bad weather, hot days, and disturbing news,
- ☛ **God offers joy.**
- ℒ As we miss experiences that are not yet possible,
- ☛ **God still offers joy.**
- ℒ Though we wonder what the future holds and how long this pandemic will last,
- ☛ **God continues to offer joy.**
- ℒ Even as we face illness and grief,
- ☛ **God's joy abides.**

ℒ Holy God of Joy,

Amid the relentlessness of our lives, we open ourselves to receive your joy. Thank you for each smile, each laugh, each moment of warmth, each reminder of your presence. Stir your loving joy within us to make us people of joy.

☛ **Amen.**

SONG: REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS

**Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice.
 Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice.
 Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice.
 Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say, Rejoice.**

RESPONSIVE SCRIPTURE

- ☐ Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I say rejoice. *-- Philippians 4:4 NRSV*
- ☑ **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.** *-- Isaiah 12:3*
- ☐ For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. *--Romans 14:17*
- ☑ **The godly are happy; they rejoice before God and are overcome with joy.** *--Psalm 68:3 NET*
- ☐ “Now go home and have a feast. Share your food and wine with those who don't have enough. Today is holy to our Lord, so don't be sad. The joy that the Lord gives you will make you strong.” *-- Nehemiah 8:10 GNV*
- ☑ **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.** *--Romans 15:13*

MEDITATION

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HYMN: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

BENEDICTION

- ☐ Indeed you will go out with joy; you will be led along in peace; the mountains and hills will give a joyful shout before you, and all the trees in the field will clap their hands. *--Isaiah 55:12*
- ☑ **Thanks be to God.**

