



# Sermon Study Guide for December 14, 2025

*Our Savior Lutheran Church and School*

## **Theme:** The Third Candle – Joy

We can always find JOY! Joy is all around us. Right? The world shows us one sense of 'joy', but that joy tends to be quite fleeting. The joy that we find is not just a joy during Advent and Christmas, but a joy that is eternal.

## **Getting Started: (sharing with each other)**

1. What is the difference between joy and happiness? How does our world perceive those two words or feelings?
2. Think back through Christmases past: What are some of your most joyful memories?
3. Where do you see happiness or joy found in our world during this season of Advent and Christmas?

## **In the Word: Read Isaiah 12**

4. These words from Isaiah are a song of praise from the people of Israel, proclaiming the goodness and glory of what God has done for them. What does it mean for God to be the strength and salvation of the people of Israel?
5. In verse 4, we hear, "Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted." What does that mean for the people of Israel in their time and place?

6. In verse 6, we hear, “Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.” A song of joy to God! Great is our God! What in the past had God done for the people of Israel to sing these songs?

**Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)**

7. I love this section of scripture from Isaiah 12. I love the joy it brings, the glory it gives to God, and how it tells us to proclaim that His name is exalted. What strength and energy does that give to our witness of God throughout the year? How is that pumped up and shown even more in Advent?
8. The world is seeking for joy. In one sense, it is sad to see, because people are seeking after things that give them temporal happiness. Things that are short lived, or give them happiness for just a moment. How does the joy you have from Jesus help to give answer to this seeking in our world?
9. Joy! The world seeks it. We have it. Who do you know that needs some joy this Advent and Christmas season? How can you best share that joy of Christ, the reason for the season with those that are in need of it? If you are working through this with a small group, is there something you could do to share that joy?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the joy of Jesus that dwells within us and that no one can take away! Thank God that even when the days and season starts to feel dreary and dark, that the light and joy of Christ illuminates our hearts and minds with the joy and light of Jesus. Thank God that He sent His son, and thank Jesus for living, dying, and rising, that we might have eternal life, and know eternal joy. Ask God to help you share joy with those who seem to have no joy this Advent season.

**Next Week: The Fourth Candle – Love**

Love came down to set us free, and love has a name to it and that’s Jesus Christ. Immanuel means “God with us” and Jesus being with us was love dwelling among us, he was selfless for me and you, showing us what the true essence of love is.