



# Waiting with Joy

## Enlighten Advent Prayer Week 3

### **Reader 1:**

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)*

### **Unison:**

***It is you who light my lamp;  
the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness. (Psalm 18:28)***

### **Reader 2:**

This week we remember John the Baptist, God's messenger who proclaimed the arrival of the Messiah, the Lamb of God, the Light of the World.

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.  
He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light,  
that all might believe through him. He was not the light,  
but came to bear witness about the light. (John 1:6-8)*

### **Unison:**

***The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)***  
***It is you who light my lamp;  
the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness. (Psalm 18:28)***

### **Reader 3:**

*In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.*

*...Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth*

*will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” (Luke 1:5-17)*

**Unison:**

***There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.  
He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light,  
that all might believe through him.  
He was not the light,  
but came to bear witness about the light. (John 1:6-8)***

**Reader 1:**

*[John] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”*

*And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.” (John 1:29-34)*

**Unison:**

***...As he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”  
(John 1:36)***

***In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)***

**Unison:**

***The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)***

**Reader 2:**

We also remember the disciples of John who became disciples of Jesus. They recognized him as the Messiah, the Light of the World.

*The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. (John 1:35-37)*

*The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world... (John 1:9)*

**Unison**

***The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?***

***The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1)***

***Joyful are those who have the God of Israel as their helper,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God. (Psalm 146:5 NLT)***

**Reader 3:**

Today we honor the memory of St. Lucia, who served the needy in her community, and lost her life because of her faith. Show us, Lord, the needs that we can meet in our own locations.

Remind us of the believers around the world who are not free to express their faith as openly as we are.

**Unison:**

***Light dawns for the righteous,***

***and joy for the upright in heart.***

***Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous,***

***and give thanks to his holy name!***

***(Psalm 97:11-12)***

Light of the World,

today we rejoice

because your word is a lamp to our feet,  
and a light to our path.

We ask for the joy that John the Baptist  
experienced in your presence.

We ask for the wisdom to follow you  
as John's disciples did.

We think of St. Lucia,  
bringing food and light to the needy.

Show us how to reflect your light  
and to reach out to those around you,  
sharing your joy and provision.

**Unison:**

***The sun shall no longer be your light by day,***

***nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night;***

***but the Lord will be your everlasting light,***

***and your God will be your glory. (Isaiah 60:19)***

