

– Responsive Prayer –

- PASTOR:** Heavenly Father, You sent Your angel to announce the Savior's birth as "good news of a great joy for all people."
- PEOPLE:** Strengthen our Synod that our pastors and congregations may be filled continually with Gospel joy. Help us to spread Your Word with eagerness and zeal.
- PASTOR:** Glorious One, Your Son urged us to ask great things of You so that, receiving Your kind gifts, our "joy may be full."
- PEOPLE:** Make us a people of prayer who turn to You early and often with every joy, every heartache and every concern for our neighbor.
- PASTOR:** Father of light, with You there is no variation or change. In Your unfailing love You never cease to shower Your good gifts upon Your children.
- PEOPLE:** We thank and praise You for them all, for the goodness of Your creation, for the blessings of hearth and home, for friends and colleagues, for the hardships that turn us to You and for the love that sustains us from day to day.
- PASTOR:** Heavenly Father, through Your Son and Holy Spirit, You call Your children to enter into the joy of Your presence to receive Your gifts and offer their praises.
- PEOPLE:** Strengthen each congregation, school and home of our Synod, that they may be filled with the joy of sin's forgiveness and death's defeat, celebrating in joyful song Your great salvation.
- PASTOR:** In every place we pray that the Good News of Your Son would sound forth, that by Your Spirit's power many might be rescued from the enemy's darkness and despair and be brought to share the joy of Christ in living faith.
- PEOPLE:** Pour out on all Your people a spirit of generosity to support the work You have laid upon us. May the gifts we offer be acceptable and pleasing in Your sight, through our Savior, Jesus. May the joy of the Lord be our strength!
- PASTOR:** O Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Your love is immeasurable, Your peace unfathomable, Your joy everlasting.
- PEOPLE:** Let Your love, Your peace and Your joy fill our hearts to overflowing all the days of our pilgrimage. On the day of the resurrection, grant us to see our Savior's glory and enter into the joy of the Lord forever.
- ALL:** Amen!

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