

Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 13, 2020

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

HYMN #16 “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings Good news about the King of kings.

Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin And furnished for a guest within,
And let us all our hearts prepare For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away Like flow’rs that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, And lift us up to fall no more.
Oh, make your face on us to shine, And fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.

STAND

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY

- M:** For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C:** **Lord, have mercy.**
- M:** For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.
- C:** **Christ, have mercy.**
- M:** For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C:** **Lord, have mercy.**
- M:** Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:
- C:** **Amen.**
- M:** The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

The liturgical song “O Lord, our Lord” is omitted during Advent as a season of repentance and preparation. This song of the angels will return on Christmas morning.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M:** Let us pray. Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C:** **Amen.**

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-8: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the

Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

M: The Word of the Lord.

PSALM OF THE DAY - Psalm 111

Refrain: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

Great are the works of the LORD;* they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are his deeds,* and his righteousness endures forever. He has caused his wonders to be remembered;* the LORD is gracious and compassionate.

Refrain: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

The works of his hands are faithful and just;* all his precepts are trustworthy. He provided redemption for his people;* he ordained his covenant forever. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;* all who follow his precepts have good understanding.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son* and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,* is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 4:1-5: This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

M: The Word of the Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

STAND

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-10: Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, “‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

BE SEATED

HYMN #15 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding; “Christ is near,” we hear it say.
“Cast away the works of darkness; You are children of the day.”

Lo, the Lamb, so long-expected, Comes with pardon down from heav’n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv’n,

That, when next he comes with glory And the world is wrapped in fear,
He may shield us with his mercy And with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son
With the everlasting Spirit While eternal ages run!

SERMON

STAND

NICENE CREED

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen. *(Please remain standing)*

OFFERING

(We will not pass a plate but one will be available on the table as you leave church.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory. You are my God, and I will exalt you. I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

In accordance with God's command in I Corinthians, we at Christ practice close communion. This means that only members of our church or of one in fellowship with us may commune. Visitors are invited to speak with the pastor and find out why this is an act of LOVE.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN #32 “When Sinners See Their Lost Condition”

When sinners see their lost condition And feel the pressing load of sin
And Jesus comes on his blest mission To heal the sin-sick heart within,
All grief must flee before his grace, And joy divine will take its place.

When Jesus enters meek and lowly To fill the home with sweetest peace,
When hearts have felt his blessing holy And found from sin complete release,
Then calm and joy within shall reign, And hearts divided love again.

When Jesus enters land and nation And changes people with his love,
When, yielding to his kind persuasion, Our hearts his truth and blessing prove,
Then shall our life on earth be blest; The peace of God on us shall rest.

When Jesus comes—O blessed story—He works a change in heart and life;
God's kingdom comes with pow'r and glory To young and old, to man and wife.
Through sacrament and living Word Faith, love, and hope are now conferred.

Oh, may he soon to ev'ry nation Find entrance where he is unknown,
With life and light and free salvation, That Satan's pow'r be overthrown,
And healing to all hearts may come In heathen land and Christian home!

STAND

THANKSGIVING

THANK THE LORD

- C:** Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!
- M:** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C:** Amen.
- M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace. Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN #11 “Comfort, Comfort All My People”

“Comfort, comfort all my people; Speak of peace,” so says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness, Groaning from their sorrows’ load.
Speak to all Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over.”

All their sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserve his anger He no more will see or heed.
They have suffered many a day; Now their griefs have passed away.
God will change their aching sadness Into ever-springing gladness.

John the Baptist's voice is crying In the desert far and near,
Calling people to repentance For the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.

Straighten out the crooked highway; Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, Ready for his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token That his word is never broken.

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