

Feast of St. John

Sunday, December 27, 2020

DIVINE SERVICE II

HYMN #280 “Thy Strong Word”

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank thee While thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of thy salvation, Breathed thine own life-giving breath.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hope confess.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

From the cross thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu’ring might;
From the cross forever beameth All thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Give us lips to sing thy glory, Tongues thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats to shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak thy holy name.
Alleluia! Alleluia! May the light which thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

God the Father, light-creator, To thee laud and honor be.
To thee, Light from Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

STAND

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

CONFESSION

- M:** Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.
- C:** **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

ABSOLUTION

- M:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:
I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
- C:** **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

- M:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C:** **Lord, have mercy.**
- M:** For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.
- C:** **Christ, have mercy.**
- M:** For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C:** **Lord, have mercy.**
- M:** Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.
- C:** **Amen.**

GLORY BE TO GOD

- C:** **All glory be to God on high!
Your name, O Lord, we glorify!
We praise you for your peace and grace,
Your favor toward our fallen race.**
- Our grateful thanks to you we bring,
For your great glory, heav'nly King,
For all, O Father, you have done
Through Jesus Christ, your only Son.**

**O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
You take all human sin away.
Have mercy, Lord; receive our prayer;
From God's right hand, your mercy share.
You Christ, are holy—Lord alone;
The Father's glory you made known.
We by your Spirit sing again:
"All glory be to God!" Amen.**

THE WORD

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Merciful Lord, cast the bright beams of your light on the whole Christian Church, that, being instructed by the teachings of your blessed apostle and evangelist John, we may always walk in the light of your saving truth, until at last we inherit the gift of eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

Revelation 1:1-6: The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw--that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

M: The Word of the Lord.

PSALM OF THE DAY - Psalm 8

Refrain: I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.

O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!*

You have set your glory above the heavens.

When I consider your heavens,* the work of your fingers,
what is man that you are mindful of him,* the Son of Man that you care for him?

Refrain: I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.

You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings*

and crowned him with glory and honor.

You made him ruler over the works of your hands;* you put everything under his feet.

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: I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.

SECOND LESSON

1 John 1:1-2:2: That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-- this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

M: The Word of the Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY

- M:** Alleluia. The message of the cross is the power of God to us who are being saved.
Alleluia.
- C:** **Alleluia! Alleluia! Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

STAND

GOSPEL

John 21:20-25: Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?" Jesus answered, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me." Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, "If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?" This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

- M:** The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY #35 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been, And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed his sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

This is he whom heav'n-taught singers Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.
Now he shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heav'n adore him, Angel hosts his praises sing,
Pow'rs, dominions bow before him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to you, with God the Father, And the Spirit ceaselessly
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

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 good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has called us to be his own so that we may live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

C: **O holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might,
your glory, earth and heaven in countless ways recite.
Hosanna! Come and save us, Lord God of hosts on high,
and in your grace and mercy receive our fervent cry.**

**Hosanna in the highest! How truly blest is he
who in God's name is coming to set his people free!
He comes to bring salvation and with his blood outpoured,
deliver us from bondage—Hosanna, mighty Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power. By his incarnation, he became one with us. By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will. By his innocent death, he overcame hell. By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven. Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: **Amen.**

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

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

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

As God's word commands in 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 #59 “Christ the Lord to Us Is Born”

Christ the Lord to us is born, Alleluia! On this joyous Christmas morn, Alleluia!
Of a virgin lowly, He, the King most holy, Born this day to save us.

Prophesied in days of old, Alleluia! God has sent him as foretold, Alleluia!
Of a virgin lowly, He, the King most holy, Born this day to save us.

Our poor human form he took, Alleluia! Realms of heaven he forsook, Alleluia!
Of a virgin lowly, He, the King most holy, Born this day to save us.

God has saved us through his Son, Alleluia! Conquered lies the evil one, Alleluia!
Of a virgin lowly, He, the King most holy, Born this day to save us.

STAND

SONG OF SIMEON

C: O Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, assured:
for I have seen your promised incarnate, saving Word—
a light that will enlighten all gloom where Gentiles dwell;
the brilliant, crowning glory of those in Israel!

All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son,
all glory to the Spirit, forever three in one;
for as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding through all eternity.

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN #552 “By All Your Saints Still Striving”

By all your saints still striving, For all your saints at rest,
Your holy name, O Jesus, Forevermore be blessed.
You rose, our King victorious, That they might wear the crown
And ever shine in splendor Reflected from your throne.

For John, your loved disciple, Exiled to Patmos' shore,
And for his faithful record We praise you evermore.
Praise for the mystic vision His words to us unfold.
Instill in us his longing Your glory to behold.

Then let us praise the Father And worship God the Son
And sing to God the Spirit, Eternal Three in One,
Till all the ransomed number Who stand before the throne
Ascribe all pow'r and glory And praise to God alone.

Call Meeting: We have scheduled a call meeting for Sunday, January 3rd at 7:00 PM to extend a call for a new pastor. Everyone is invited to attend and hear about the candidates.

Vacancy: Pastor Johann Caauwe from Wood Lake is serving as our vacancy pastor. If you need to contact him please call 507-828-5136 or email him at pastor@stjohnswoodlake.com.

Singing in January: At the December church council meeting it was decided that we will begin singing as a congregation in our Sunday services starting January 3rd. Masks will still be required.

New Year's Eve Worship: We pray that many of you will take advantage of this service on Thursday at 7:00 PM to thank God for the blessings of the past year and ask his continued blessings on the year to come. Please visit our website to register if you plan to attend. We will be singing at this service.

Organ: A quick update on our offerings given towards our new Organ. As of November 30, 2020, we have been blessed to receive over \$31,800 in contributions. We thank you for all of this support. The total cost of the organ was just over \$50,000, so there are still opportunities to give offerings towards our new Organ, which will be the cornerstone of our church's musical worship for years to come.

God's Gifts: Offerings during the month of December are critical each year in helping reach our church financial budget. All the extra worship opportunities of a typical year make December our best month for offerings, but this year our service count in December is cut nearly in half. Please prayerfully remember your church in your financial support of our ministry. As of November 30, 2020, our general offerings are just under \$305,000. The 2020 General Offerings Budget goal is \$386,000.

Thank You! Thank you to all the many carolers! God certainly provided a great turnout! Two big groups were able to sing at Boulder, Heritage Point, and Hill St. Place and 13 group homes of the individuals who participate in the Jesus Cares program here at Christ. God was also pleased to give them excellent weather. Many thanks to those who wrapped gifts and made instruments for the residents of the homes. Thank you for sharing the faith and joy that you have in the Christ Child. It meant so much to so many! Thank you!

Snow Removal: We are asking individuals and families to sign up for snow removal at church. Would you be willing to pick a week or two? With pastor gone we need your help! A snow blower and shovels are available for you to use. Please contact our maintenance committee chairman Wes Hoflock to sign up at 829-1612 or whoflock@gmail.com. Thank you!

Offering: Just a reminder that we will not be passing the offering plate. You can leave your offering in the plate on the table as you leave church.

Take Home: Be sure you take your service folder home with you to recycle. Please do not leave it in church.

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