

Divine Service Third Sunday in Advent

December 13, 2020

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...” (Heb. 12:28)

Opening Hymn: 331 ss. 1-6

1. The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.
2. The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be;
Himself a servant's form puts on To set His servants free.
3. O Zion's Daughter, rise To meet thy lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise The peace He comes to bring.
4. As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again
And His true members all unite With Him in heaven to reign.
5. Before the dawning day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.
6. All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever One, Through all eternity.

Invocation

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG..... Amen.

Call to Confession

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

CONG..... But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession

PASTOR: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
CONG..... Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

PASTOR: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG..... Amen.

The Introit of the Day

PHIL 4:4; PS 146:5-8

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, rejoice.

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

who keeps faith forever;

who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

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.
Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, Rejoice.

The Kyrie

PASTOR: In peace let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: For the peace from above and for our salvation
let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-
being of the Church of God, and for the unity
of all let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: For this holy house and for all who offer here
their worship and praise let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious
LORD.
CONG..... *Amen.*

Choir: "Zion Hears the Watchmen Singing"

Zion hears the watchmen singing,
And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom;
For her Lord comes down all glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious.
Her Star is risen, her Light is come.

PASTOR: Collect of the Day.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to
lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation;
for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

14 Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.
16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
"Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.
17 The Lord your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
18 I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.
19 Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
20 At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes," says the Lord.

Gradual: ZECH 9:9; PS 118:26

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.
Behold, your king is coming to you;
Righteous and having salvation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

The Epistle: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;
6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Verse: MATT 11:10b

Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.

Holy Gospel: ST. LUKE 7:18-28

18 The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John,
19 calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?"
20 And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'"
21 In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight.
22 And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them.
23 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."
24 When John's messengers had gone, 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?
25 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing

and live in luxury are in kings' courts.
26 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.
27 This is he of whom it is written,
"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you."
28 I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

The Sermon Hymn: 349 ss. 1-4

1. Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

2. He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

3. He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim
And hea'en's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

Sermon: "Reasons to Sing and Rejoice!" ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

The Post-Sermon Hymn: 353 ss. 1-4

1 Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die;

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.

2 Jesus comes again in mercy
When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To an earnest, heart-felt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.

3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope to all the world is giv'n.

4 Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comforts us in failing years.

The Apostles' Creed (We Confess Together)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers and The LORD's Prayer

The Collect for the Word

PASTOR: Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

CONG: Amen.

The Benediction

PASTOR: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

CONG: Amen.

Liturgist: Pastor Bill Abbott

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