

Divine Service Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 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)

The Opening Hymn: 341 ss 1-5

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of Glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring,
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing:
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

2. A righteous Helper comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress,
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings:
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

3. O blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless Sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

4. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart

From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

5. Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

The Invocation

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

CONG: Amen.

Call to Confession

PASTOR: Beloved in the LORD. Let us draw near with a
true heart and confess our sins to God our
Father, imploring him in the name of our LORD
Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

The Confession

PASTOR: Our help is in the name of the LORD.

CONG: Who made heaven and earth.

PASTOR: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the
LORD.

CONG: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

PASTOR: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we
poor sinners confess to you that we are by
nature sinful and unclean and that we have

sinned against you by thought, word, and deed; therefore we flee for refuge to your boundless mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of our LORD Jesus Christ.

ALL: O most merciful God, since you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us and for his sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins; and by your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your Word, to the end that by your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The 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

LUKE 1:46b-47; 1 SAM. 2:1b, 2, 5b-7

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.
“There is none holy like the LORD:
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.
The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low and he exalts.

Gloria Patri

CONG: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie

CONG: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect

PASTOR: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CONG: Amen.

The Old Testament Reading: 2 SAMUEL 11:1-9, 16

1 In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel. And they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

2 It happened, late one afternoon, when David arose from his couch and was walking on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful.

3 And David sent and inquired about the woman. And one said, “Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?”

4 So David sent messengers and took her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she had been purifying herself from her uncleanness.) Then she returned to her house.

5 And the woman conceived, and she sent and told David, “I am pregnant.”

6 So David sent word to Joab, “Send me Uriah the Hittite.” And Joab sent Uriah to David.

7 When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab was doing and how the people were doing and how the war was going.
8 Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." And Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king.
9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house.
16 And as Joab was besieging the city, he assigned Uriah to the place where he knew there were valiant men.

The Gradual ZECH 9:9; PSALM 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: ROMANS 16:25-27

25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages
26 but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—

27 to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

The Verse MATT 1:23a

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.

The Holy Gospel: ST. LUKE 1:39-45

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,

40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,

42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Choir: "Prepare the Royal Highway" 343 ss. 1-4

1. Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!
2. God's people see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!

3. Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him!
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!

4. His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness, so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!

The Nicene Creed (We Confess Together)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one holy

Christian and Apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sermon Hymn: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

344 ss. 1-5

1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be every life from sin:
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward.
Without Thy grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
and make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
whose advent sets Thy people free;
Whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

The Sermon: The Blessing of God's Wisdom ST. LUKE 1:39-45

The Offertory

CONG: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

The Prayers and The LORD's Prayer

The Closing Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

357 ss 1-7

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

REFRAIN:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
who ord'rest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the Law
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come
and open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease
and be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

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 Brock Abbott

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