



2nd Sunday in Advent
December 8, 2024

Opening Hymn #797
Sing Praise to the God of Israel

1. Sing praise to the God of Israel!
Sing praise for His visitation!
Redeeming His people from their sin,
Accomplishing their salvation,
Upraising a mighty horn within
The house of His servant David!
2. God spoke by the prophets long ago,
His promise on oath recalling
To Abraham made in former years:
Of vanquishing foes appalling,
That those He delivered from their fears
Might gladly and truly serve Him.
3. You, child, will go on before the Lord
As prophet, His way preparing;
To speak on behalf of God Most High,
His counsel of truth declaring:
Rich mercy and grace for all whereby
Iniquity is forgiven.
4. O bright, rising Sun now shine on us
In need of illumination;
Come scatter the shades of sin and death
And shatter their domination.
Be guiding our footsteps on the path
Of peace, in Your presence dawning!

Invocation

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Confession and Absolution

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen

Kyrie – sing

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

P: We light two Advent candles remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

C: We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

P: We hear his call to repent.

C: We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

P: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Two Advent candles are lit.

The Bethlehem Candle is symbolic of the preparations being made to receive and to cradle the Christ-Child. [Is. 40:1-11]

(To the Tune of "Away in a Manger")

**This world sits in darkness,
Nor cares for the light,
In sin we were wandering,
And cold was the night.
Let all who've discovered
The light of God's face
Repent, be delivered
By God's saving grace.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The First Lesson – Malachi 3:1-7b

¹"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who

swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. ⁶“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.”

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 66

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Antiphon – At the works of Your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Make a joyful shout to God, | all the earth!*

Sing out the honor of His name;

Make His praise | glorious.

Say to God, “How awesome | are Your works!*

Through the greatness of Your power

Your enemies shall submit them-| selves to You.

All the earth shall worship You and sing praises |
to You;*

They shall sing praises | to Your name.”

Antiphon – At the works of Your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Come and see the | works of God;*

**He is awesome in His doing toward the | sons
of men.**

Oh, bless our God, you | peoples!*

And make the voice of His praise | to be heard,

Who keeps our soul among the | living,*

And does not allow our feet | to be moved.

**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.**

Antiphon – At the works of Your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

The Second Lesson – Philippians 1:2-11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The Gospel – Luke 3:1-20

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the

crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.” ⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.” ¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reprovved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

P: Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

The Alleluia – sing

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Confession of Faith – Nicene Creed

**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 shall 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 worshipped and glorified,
Who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe 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.**

Hymn of the Day #63
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings from the King of kings.

2. Then cleansed by ev'ry Christian breast
And furnished for so great a Guest.
Yea, let us each our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

3. For Thou art our Salvation, Lord,
Our Refuge, and our great Reward.
Without Thy grace our souls must fade
And wither like a flower decayed.

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 every place.

5. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom, with the Father, we adore
And Holy Ghost forevermore.

Sermon Text – Luke 3:1-20

Sermon

***The Preaching of Repentance Prepares Us for the Coming of
the Lord***

Offertory

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.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: O Lord, our God, You declared Israel to be Your people and brought them out of Egypt. You desired their salvation even when they would not listen to Your voice. Since You have called and gathered us also to be Your people, open our hearts to listen and gladly submit to Your Word.

**2 Herald, sound the note of gladness;
Tell the news that Christ is here;**

P: Almighty God, as You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord, send forth pastors and missionaries to declare Your saving Word to the nations. Preserve them from temptation, protect them in suffering and equip them with every good gift to make known the Christ who still comes to save.

**Make a pathway through the desert
For the one who brings God near.**

P: Gracious Lord, You sent St. John the Baptist to prepare all flesh to see the salvation of God. Prepare also the hearts of all who kneel at Your altar today to receive worthily Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of their sins.

**3 Herald, sound the note of pardon --
Those repenting are forgiv'n;**

P: Heavenly Father, as You call and gather us into Your family, so bless the households of this congregation. Bless husbands and wives, fathers and mothers as they go about their work of strengthening marriage and raising children. Let their love abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment, and fill their homes with the righteousness that comes through Christ Jesus.

**God receives His wayward children,
And to them new life is giv'n.**

P: Lord of hosts, St. John the Baptist counseled penitent soldiers to go about their military duties according to Your Word. Remember those who serve in the armed forces [*especially* _____]. Protect them from harm, give them wisdom and courage, and grant that they fulfill their duties honorably.

**4 Herald, sound the note of triumph;
Christ has come to share our life,**

P: Merciful Lord, Your forerunner prepared the way for the One who is mightier than all: Your Son, Jesus Christ. For His sake, we entrust to You those in need of healing, comfort and rescue [*especially* _____]. Have mercy upon them, deliver them according to Your will and strengthen them in faith, that they might be assured of Your faithfulness.

**Bringing God's own love and power,
Granting vict'ry in our strife.**

P: Holy God, You sent Your Son to purify us, that we might be righteous and holy before You. Deliver us from the love of sin, which defiles us and stains our works. Cleanse our hearts by Your grace, so that we may delight in Your promises and our works would be pleasing to You.

**Sound the trumpet! Tell the message:
Christ, the Savior king, is come!**

P: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again **<please stand>** and taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

**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 Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God...

(the appropriate Preface is read)

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

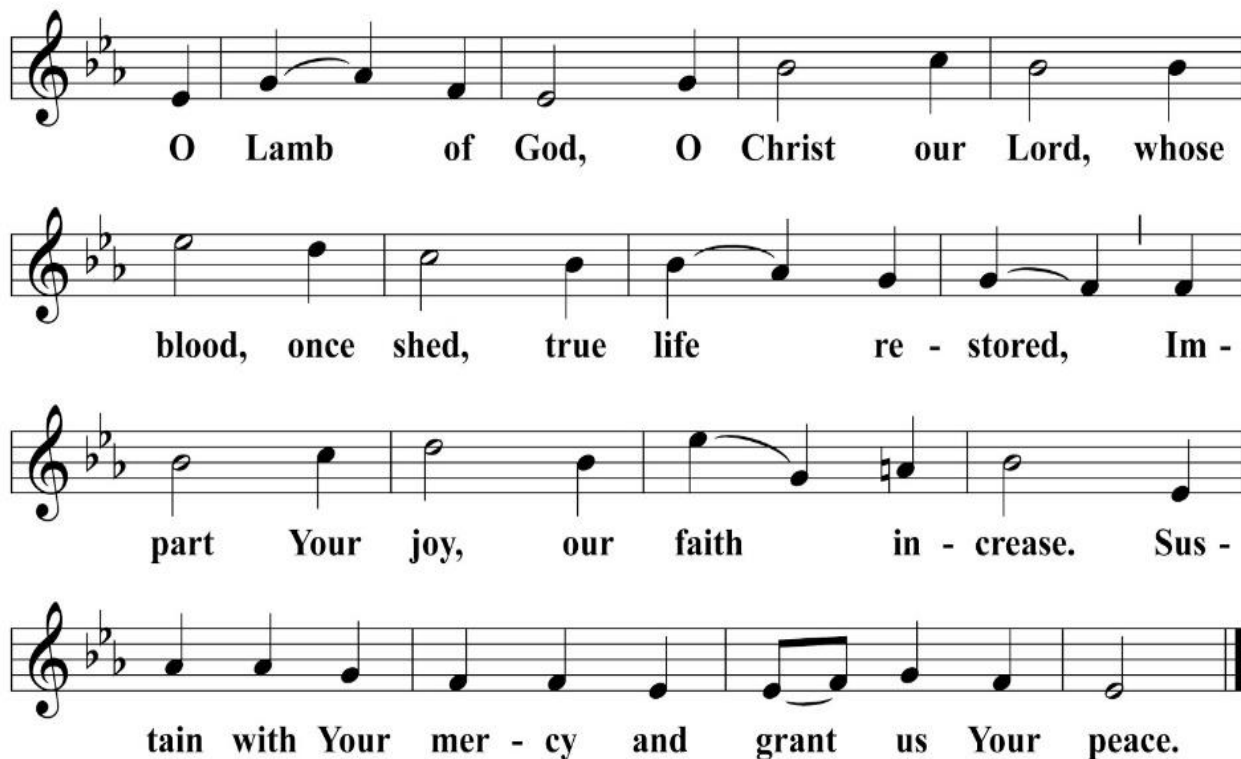
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of Sa - ba - oth, a - dored; Heav' n and
earth with full ac - claim shout the glo - ry of Your name. Sing ho -
san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord; Tru - ly
blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose
 blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -
 part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -
 tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.

Distribution

Nunc Dimittis - sing

1. O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace,
 For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
 A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
 The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

2. 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.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

Thanksgiving



C: My heart has now be - come Your dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es



tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your



bod - y and Your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen

Closing Hymn #61

Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

1. Comfort, comfort, ye My people,
Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.

2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.

3. Hark, the Herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance
Since 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.

4. Make ye straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

Silent Prayer

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