

COMMUNION MUSIC: Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW #247

POST COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: He Came Down

ELW #253

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PRAYERCARE The family of John Solheim, Donna Lindgren, Don & Verna Grover, Vicki Ford, Dave Danberg, Caroline Greene, Nia Glynn, Ron Hackmann, the family of Doris Fors, Helen Swanson, the family of Ann Rue, the family of Kurt Kowarsch, family of Joe Mallery, Dan Petersen, & the family of Margaret Dale, the family of Cheryl Slattengren, Marcielle Rogers, Cleo Stomberg Michelle Lynch, the family of Brian Maloney, Leo Nelson, Nancy Mallery, the family of Dale Stomberg, the family of Lowell Nelson, Yutaro Nakanishi and the family of Anne Lindgren.

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Pastor Dwight Rudquist

Music: Toni Brekke

Ushers: Bruce & Kathy Carlsted

Vocals: Michelle Lynch

Lector: Jerry Rhoads



Sunday, December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Bolded words: Congregation
Non-bolded words: Pastor

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

God for whom we wait, **in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: All Earth Is Hopeful

ELW #266

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

COMMUNION LITURGY

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS

THE GOSPEL: Luke 1:57-80

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1st Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE: Pastor Dwight Rudquist

HYMN OF THE DAY: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW #249

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Gail Johnson and Miriam Flysjo

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray. **Stir up our power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

We praise you, O God, for these lights that mark our days of preparation for Christ's advent. **As we light these candles, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Amen.**

ADVENT LIGHTING HYMN: Light One Candle

Light one candle on the wreath. Light one candle of hope;
Hope for the world to calm its fear, hope for the news we long to hear,
Hope in a child who will soon appear. Light one candle of hope.

Light one candle on the wreath. Light one candle of faith;
Faith that can heal a world in need, faith that can conquer hate and greed,
Faith in a child who will come to lead. Light one candle of faith.

Light one candle on the wreath. Light one candle of love;
Love that will teach the world to care, love that surrounds us everywhere,
Love in a child who will help us share. Light one candle of love.

Light one candle on the wreath. Light one candle of peace;
Peace that will free the world from war, peace that will last for evermore,
Peace through the child we are waiting for. Light one candle of peace.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But 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; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 141 (Read responsively by verse)

- ¹ I call upon you, O LORD; come quickly to me;
give ear to my voice when I call to you.
- ² **Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.**
- ³ Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.
- ⁴ **Do not turn my heart to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in
company with those who work iniquity; do not let me eat of their delicacies.**
- ⁵ Let the righteous strike me; let the faithful correct me. Never let the oil of the
wicked anoint my head, for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds.
- ⁶ **When they are given over to those who shall condemn them,
then they shall learn that my words were pleasant.**
- ⁷ Like a rock that one breaks apart and shatters on the land,
so shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of Sheol.
- ⁸ **But my eyes are turned toward you, O God, my LORD;
in you I seek refuge; do not leave me defenseless.**
- ⁹ Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me,
and from the snares of evildoers.
- ¹⁰ **Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I alone escape.**

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.