

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit,
the God of Rescue and Good News.

Amen.

You could raise up children from stones and the grave O LORD, but
instead you stay with us.

Sift our consciences; cleanse our hearts and fill them with
expectation!

Make us fruitful O God,
come to us Holy Spirit,
Spirit of our Baptism.

Let us confess our Sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Lord of lords,

Rescue us!

We repent of our fixation on scarcity.

We repent of our obsessive self-seeking.

We repent of our violent gain.

Rescue us from all of our Sin.

**Turns us to our baptismal calling, to sufficiency, fairness, and
peace, so that we are prepared for the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news friends. God is indeed a God of rescue and
transformation, a God who makes us Children of God.

In the name of + Jesus Christ, into whose life, death, and
resurrection, we are baptized—I assure you all your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

(Pastor Lights third candle)

A The Third Candle in our Advent Wreath symbolizes "Joy". It reminds us of the joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

Scripture: Luke 2:7-15

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you; you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made know to us.

O Lord, hear our prayers and enlighten our minds by the grace of your visitation. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

HYMN

WOV#626

"People, Look East"

Verses 1 & 4



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

GREETING

Blessed be the holy Trinity + one God,
 Our Prince of Peace,
 Our Mighty God,
 Our Wonderful Counselor,
 Who is and was and is to come.

Amen.

KYRIE

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
 Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of
 all;

for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

**Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
 Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.

And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you;

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.

These are the tender mercies of the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become
my salvation.

**With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's
name;

make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim
that this name is exalted.

**Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd Chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

John said 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? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

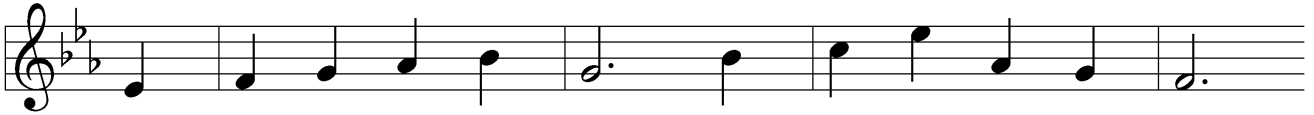
The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY LBW#22 "The Advent of Our God"

Verses 1 & 6



1 The ad - vent of our God shall be our theme for prayer;
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son in - car - nate stoops to be,
3 Come, Zi - on's daugh-ter, rise to meet your low - ly king,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain,



come, let us meet him on the road and place for him pre - pare.
him - self the ser - vant's form puts on to set his peo - ple free.
nor let your faith-less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.
and all his scat-tered saints u - nite with him on high to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
let sin be put to flight;
no longer let the law hold sway,
but walk in freedom's light.

6 All glory to the Son,
who comes to set us free,
with Father, Spirit, ever one
through all eternity.

NICENE CREED

**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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**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.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic 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**

THE PRAYERS

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day (especially). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians (especially). With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace (especially). By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

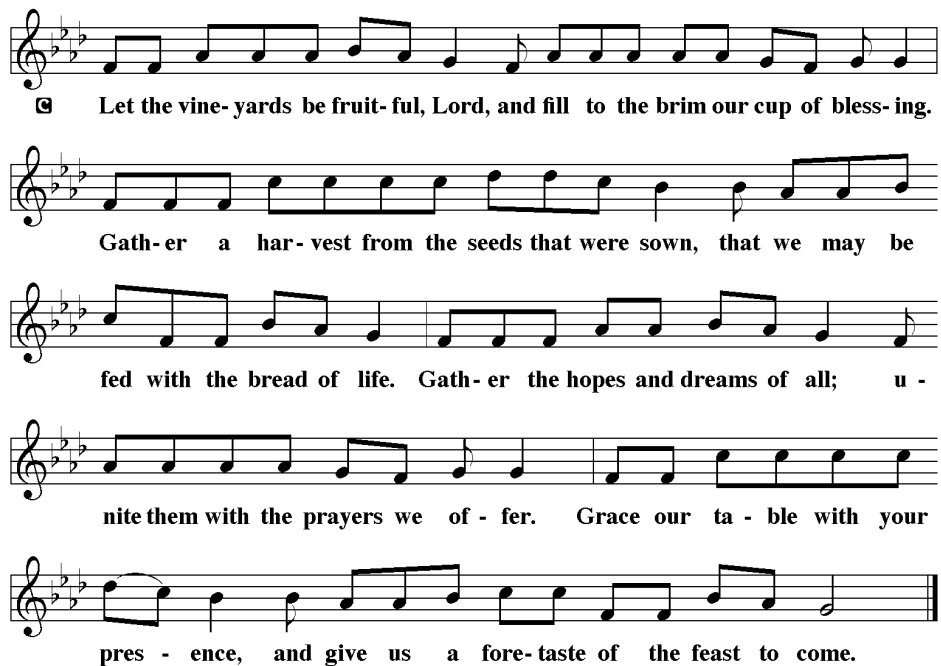
P God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

OFFERING CHORAL ANTHEM

"Waiting"

-Jay Althouse



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of bless-ing.
Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

A Let us pray.

**Mighty One, God our Savior,
you have done great things,
your mercy endures for every generation.
You uplift the lowly and fill the hungry with good things.
With these your gifts, welcome us into the marketplace of the
City of God,
that your generosity might be known through us,
in the name of the Promised One, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.


Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

On the night in which he was handed over,
Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
And gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in the remembrance of me.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours,
 al - might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

LORD'S PRAYER

Empowered 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.

P Send now we pray, your Holy Spirit upon these common elements, bread and wine, that they might be for us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

The Body of Christ, given for you.
The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

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

Amen

Lord, now you let your ser - vant go in peace; your word has
 been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which
 you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:
 A light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the
 glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,
 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

A Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN LBW#39 "Joy to the World"
Verses 1 & 4



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Our redemption draws near.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

LBW Setting 3