

Third Sunday in Advent
December 12, 2021
Welcome
Silent Meditation

Call to Worship: Psalm 95:1-3

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. For the
LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

Hymn: Joy to the World

#195

Invocation

The Law of Christ:

John 3:19-20

Pastor: Our Savior, the Lord Jesus summarized the moral law of God by saying,

Congregation: And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.

Pastor: Beloved we too have evil works; therefore let us confess our sin:

Corporate Confession of sin:

Great and holy God we could never stand before you by our own righteousness and merit; there is still too much desire for the world in us, and our love for you is both incomplete and insufficient. After all that you have done for us in Christ we still fall short on a daily basis. We need a Redeemer outside of ourselves. We need someone with perfect and complete righteousness to be our substitute. Thank you, for your only begotten Son, the Lord Jesus, who is our perfect redeemer. Blot out our sin and rebellion, and may our hearts be turned toward him and away from the world. We pray in the strong name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Personal (silent)

Assurance of Pardon: Col 1:13-14

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Congregation: We give praise to God for although he was angry with us his anger has been turned away and by faith in Christ our sins are forgiven.

Pastor: How far has he separated your sins from you?

Congregation: As far as the East is from the West, and he has replaced them with the righteousness of Christ

All: **Praise and glory be to God our Father and to his Son Jesus our only Savior!**

Response:

Minister: It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. (Ps 92:1)

Congregation: **For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your hands. How great are your works, O LORD, how profound your thoughts!** (Ps 92:4-5)

Hymn: Angels, from the Realms of Glory #218

Confession of Faith: Westminster Chapter 8, Article 2 p853

Song: In the Fullness of Time

In the fullness of time
God sent forth his son
He was made under the law
To redeem us.

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel: Matt 8

Psalter: Ps 24 Lift Up Your Heads #198

Epistle: Romans 4:13-25

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring-- not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"-- in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be."

He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb.

No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

That is why his faith was "counted to him as righteousness."

But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also.

It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Sermon: The Fullness of Time

Gal 4:4-5

Lord's Supper

Bread: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

#252

Cup: What Child Is This

#213

Offering:

Doxology:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him all creatures here below.

Praise him above ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Prayer

Closing Song: **May the Grace of Christ Our Savior**

May the grace of Christ our Savior

And the Father's boundless love,

With the Holy Spirit's favor,

Rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union

With each other and the Lord,

And possess, in sweet communion,

Joys, which earth cannot afford.

Benediction

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