

Second Sunday in Advent
December 10, 2023
Welcome
Silent Meditation

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1-3

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together.

Hymn: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Invocation

#193

The Law of Christ:

Jesus our Savior summarized the moral law of God by saying, Mark 12:29-31

Congregation: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Pastor: Beloved we have not done this as we ought; therefore, let us confess our sin:

Corporate Confession of sin:

Gracious Lord you have loved us supremely in Christ. You have graciously provided for us in every way by your sovereign mercy. But we are prone to complaining and grumbling against your providence and against one another. We are quick to find fault rather than offer thanks. By this we show a basic self-centeredness. We do not love you and our neighbor as we are commanded to do, but rather we love our own peace, pleasure and comfort. Forgive our ingratitude, our fussing and grumbling about our lot in life. Turn our hearts to rejoice in your goodness and in the glorious salvation we have in Christ. May he be the main focus of our lives and service to him be our primarily motivation for all things. Through Christ our only Savior and Redeemer Amen

Personal (silent)

Assurance of Pardon: Ps 103:2-4

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits--who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

Congregation: We give praise to God for the abundance of His blessings. For His forgiveness, healing, redemption, and compassion.

Pastor: How has He shown you compassion?

Congregation: He cast all our sins into the depths of the sea in the death of His Son (Micah 7:19).

All: Praise and glory be to God our Father, Christ our Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

Pastor: 1 John 2:1, 29; 5:12

If anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. If you know that He is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of Him. The one who has the Son has life.

Congregation: Lord Jesus Christ, you are our life, and in You we live. Thank you for causing us to be born again by your Holy Spirit so that we might live in Your love. Help us see and overcome the destruction we work to our bodies, our minds, and our hearts; strengthen us to pursue the good and thankful use of this world, rather than to abuse it; and animate us to pursue earnestly Your upbuilding and life-giving love and peace for those around us.

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: It Came upon the Midnight Clear

#200

Confession of Faith: Shorter Catechism in Modern English

Q. 24. How does Christ fill the office of a prophet?

Christ fills the office of a prophet in revealing to us by his Word^[a] and Spirit^[b] the will of God for our complete salvation.^[c]

Q. 25. How does Christ fill the office of a priest?

Christ fills the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself to God as a sacrifice, to satisfy divine justice^[a] and reconcile us to God;^[b] and in making constant intercession for us.^[c]

Q. 26. How does Christ fill the office of a king?

Christ fills the office of a king in making us his willing subjects, in ruling and defending us,^[a] and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.^[b]

Song: Come to Bethlehem Town

[See Insert]

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel: Luke 24:32-53

Psalter: Ps 16:1,2,5-8,11

To You, O Lord I Fly

#692

Epistle: Eph 4:1-10

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,
eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call--one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."
(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?

He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Sermon: The Branch

Jer 33:14-16

Lord's Supper

Bread: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

#311

Cup: 'Tis finished' The Messiah Dies

**'Tis finished! The Messiah dies.
Cut off for sins, but not His own
Accomplished is the sacrifice,
The great redeeming work is done.**

**'Tis finished! all the debt is paid:
Justice divine is satisfied;
The grand and full atonement made;
God for a guilty world hath died.**

**The veil is rent in Christ alone:
The living way to Heaven is seen,
The middle wall is broken down,
And all mankind may enter in.
The types and figures are fulfilled;
Exacted is the legal pain:
The precious promises are sealed.
The spotless Lamb of God is slain.**

**The reign of sin and death is o'er,
And all may live from sin set free,-
Satan hath lost his mortal power.
'Tis swallowed up in victory.
Saved from the legal curse I am,
My Savior hangs on yonder tree'
See there the meek, expiring Lamb'
'Tis finished! He expires for me.**

**Accepted in the Well-beloved.
And clothed in righteousness divine.
I see the bar to heaven removed:
And all Thy merits, Lord. are mine.
Death, hell. and sin are now subdued:
All grace is now to sinners given.
And lo, I plead the atoning blood,
And in Thy right I claim Thy Heaven'**

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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