

First Sunday in Advent
December 3 , 2023
Welcome
Silent Meditation

Call to Worship: Psalm 117:1-2

Praise the LORD, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD.

Hymn: Life Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
Invocation

#198

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:

Lord you are the only Righteous God; you are the one who determines truth, justice, right and good. You have called us to be your disciples, to think your thoughts after you and to reflect your image in the world. But at times we are more like salt that has lost its taste, we can be like broken buckets that hold no water, our reflection of your image is fractured at best.

Holy Father, we confess and bewail our sins, great and small, inward and outward, omission and commission; we are helpless apart from your grace.

We acknowledge that there is abundant grace for us in the work and merits of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you for uniting us to him by your Spirit. Renew our wills and our affections that we would love you and the things that you love; thereby being an influence for good, righteousness and justice in the world. All this we ask in the name of and for the sake of Jesus your Son and our Savior and King. Amen.

Personal (silent)

Assurance of Pardon: 1 John 1:8-9

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Congregation: We give praise to God who is faithful and just. Who has forgiven our sins and cleansed us of unrighteousness.

Pastor: How pure has the blood of Christ made you?

Congregation: Although our sins were like crimson, they are as white as wool (Isa 1:18).

All: Praise and glory be to God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit the Lord.

Pastor: Titus 2:13-14

The Savior Jesus Christ gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Congregation: Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for coming into this world to redeem us from sin and lawlessness; purify us more and more and increase our zeal to walk in Your law and do good works by the power of your Holy Spirit and faith in You. Amen.

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: Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming

#221

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: The Son of God Came Down

The Son of God came down and laid aside His crown
Born without great renown, this Sovereign One
All holiness and might, all glory shining bright
Have come to earth this night in Mary's son
O come, let us adore

Chorus:

O Christ the Lord, our hope and Savior
Son of God yet made like us
O Christ the Lord, our King adored
Born a child, our Lord Jesus

Messiah born so small, asleep in cattle stall
Come to redeem our fall, nailed to a tree
This tiny, helpless child through death would reconcile
The holy God and vile, His grace so free
O come, let us adore

Chorus:

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel: Luke 24:1-31

Psalter: Ps 14 (Tune Munich, #140)

The fool in heart is saying,
"There surely is no God."
Corrupt and vile their deeds are;
Not one of them does good.
The LORD looks down from heaven
On sons of men abroad
To see which one has wisdom,
If any seeks for God.

All far astray have wandered;
They all to vileness run.
Not one of them is righteous,
No, not a single one.
Have they of truth no knowledge,
These, evilworkers all,
Who eat like bread my people
And on GOD do not call?

There shall they be in terror
For God is with the just;
You would confound one struggling;
Jehovah is his trust.
Salvation out of Zion
Who will to Isr'el bring?
The LORD brings back His captives.
Joy, Jacob! Isr'el, sing!

Epistle: Eph 3:13-21

So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,
**that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power
through his Spirit in your inner being,**
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—
**that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all
the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,**
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of
God.

**Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according
to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

Sermon: I Will Bring Health

Jer 33:1-13

Lord's Supper

Bread: A Few More Years Shall Roll

#540

Cup: There Is a Redeemer

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Ho - ly One.

Chorus: Thank you, oh, my Father,
 For giving us Your Son,
 and leaving Your Spirit 'til
 The work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
Hope for sinners slain.

Chorus

When I stand in Glory, I will see His face.
There I'll serve my King forever,
In that holy place.

Chorus

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