

First Sunday in Advent
December 1, 2024
Welcome
Silent Meditation

Call to Worship: Isa 11:6
Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

Hymn: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Invocation

#196

The Law of Christ: Eph 4:21-24

Pastor: The Apostle Paul summarized the moral law of God when he said:

Congregation: Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

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

Corporate Confession of Sin:

Gracious Lord, how often in recent days has my heart swelled in pride? How often have I thought that I was sovereign and should have my own way? How often have I thought and acted as though my rights and privileges were paramount? Blessed Lord, I do not know the depths of my pride. Nor do I always recognize when I am acting out of pride. But I can see enough of it functioning daily in me that I deserve to be condemned forever. Out of pride, I have not loved you above all else nor have I loved my neighbor as you have loved me. Reveal my pride to me and help me pursue humility as one purchased by the blood of Christ. Thank you for imputing Christ's obedience and humility to me, and accepting me as though I were perfectly humble. Through Christ my Redeeming Lord, Amen

Personal (silent)

Assurance of Pardon: Col 2:13

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.

Congregation: We give praise to God who has liberated us from our trespasses.

Pastor: How has He freed you from your trespasses?

Congregation: He has canceled the record of debt that stood against us, having crucified it in Christ at the cross (Col 2:14).

Pastor: John 3:17-21

¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

Congregation: We give thanks to you, Heavenly Father, for sending your Son into this world to be the Light to us. We pray that we will live according to that light and do things that are true, thereby and demonstrating that you are at work in us by your Holy Spirit.

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: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

#211

Confession of Faith: Shorter Catechism in Modern English

Q. 82. Is any man able to keep the commandments of God perfectly?

No mere human person, since the fall, is able to keep the commandments of God perfectly in this life, but breaks them daily in thought, word, and deed.^[a]

Song: Lion of Judah

You're the Lion of Judah, the Lamb Who was slain,
You ascended to heaven and evermore will reign;
At the end of the age when the earth You reclaim,
You will gather the nations before You.
And the eyes of all men will be fixed on the Lamb
Who was cru – ci – fied;
With wisdom and mercy and justice You'll reign
at your Fa - ther's side.

Chorus:

And the angels will cry, "Hail the Lamb
Who was slain for the world, rule in pow'r"
And the earth will reply, "You shall reign
As the King of all kings and the Lord of all lord's"

There's a shield in our hand and a sword at our side,
There's a fire in our spirits that cannot be denied;
For the Father has told us, for these you have died,
For the nations who gather before You.
And ears of all men need to hear of the Lamb
Who was cru – ci – fied;
Who rose from the grave and was raised up to reign,
At His Fathers side.

(Chorus)

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel: Acts 10:1-23

Psalter: Ps 12

Tune St Anne, #713

O Thou, Jehovah, grant us help,
Because the godly cease;
And from among the sons of men
The faithful now decrease.

And to his neighbor every one
Doth utter vanity;
They with a double heart do speak
And lips of flattery.

The LORD will cut off all false lips,
Tongues that speak proudly thus:
"We'll with our tongue prevail; our lips
Are ours; who's lord o'er us?"

"Because the poor are sorely pressed,
Because the needy sighs,
To give the safety they desire,"
The LORD says, "I'll arise."

Jehovah's words are words most pure;
They are like silver tried
In earthen furnace, seven times
That has been purified.

LORD, Thou shalt them preserve and keep
Forever from this race.
On ev'ry side the wicked walk,
With vile men high in place.

Epistle: 1 Tim 4:1-11

Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons,

through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared,

who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.

For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine that you have followed.

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths.

Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

Command and teach these things.

Lord's Supper

Bread: Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

#257

Cup: Glorious Impossible

See the Virgin is delivered
In a cold and crowded stall
Mirror of the Father's glory
Lies beside her in the straw

He is Mercy's incarnation
Marvel at this miracle!
For the Virgin gently holds
The Glorious Impossible

Love has come to walk on water
Turn the water into wine
Touch the leper, bless the children
Love both human and divine

Praise the wisdom of the Father
Who has spoken through His Son
Speaking still, He calls us to
The Glorious Im - poss - ible

Halle lu jah
Halle lu jah
Halle lu jah
Glorious Impossible

He was bruised for our transgressions
And He bears e - ter - nal scars
He was raised for our salvation
And His righteousness is ours

Praise, oh praise Him, praise the glory
Of this lavish grace so full
Lift your souls now and receive the
Glorious Impossible!

Halle lu jah
Halle lu jah
Halle lu jah
Glorious Impossible

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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