

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 22, 2024
Welcome
Silent Meditation

Call to Worship: Luke 2:14

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#194

Invocation

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:

Almighty God, who has given us your only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and was born of a pure virgin; grant that we being regenerate, and made your children by adoption and grace may be daily renewed in the Holy Spirit. We confess and bewail our manifold sins. We denounce them since we are no longer merely the Children of Adam but rather have been born from above, and united to our blessed Savior Jesus Christ. Turn us from serving self to loving as you have loved us. Turn us from greed to follow the self-denial of your Son. At this Christmas season, subdue us that we may demonstrate the love of Christ to all we meet. Through Christ your incarnate Son. Amen

Personal (silent)

Assurance of Pardon:

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!

Pastor: 1Pe 2:24-25

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Congregation: We give thanks to you, our blessed Lord, that in Christ's death we died to sin. Grant that we may live unto righteousness, and that we would delight in obedience to you commands. Please, Holy Spirit, continue your work in us to cause us to reflect the image of Christ in all of our dealings.

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: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

#223

Confession of Faith: Nicene Creed

p846

Song: He Looked Beyond My Fault

Amazing grace shall always be my song of praise,
For it was grace that bought my liberty.
I do not know just why He came to love me so;
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

Chorus: I shall forever lift my eyes to Calvary,
To view the cross where Jesus died for me.
How marvelous the grace that caught my falling soul.
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

How can it be that Christ was born of Mary?
How can it be He bled and died for me?
I do not know just how He came to dwell below;
He looked beyond my fault and saw my need.

Pastoral Prayer

The following Scripture readings are according to *lectua continua*,
a consecutive reading in order.

Gospel: Acts 12

Psalter: Ps 15 (Tune Something for Jesus # 638)

LORD, in Thy tent who will
Abide with Thee,
And on Thy holy hill
A dweller be?
Who walks in uprightness,
Who worketh righteousness,
Who doth the truth express
Unfeignedly;

Whose tongue doth not defame
Nor harm his friend,
Who to his neighbor's shame
No ear doth lend,
Who has the vile abhorred
But honor doth accord
To those who fear the LORD

And Him attend.

When to his hurt he swears
Naught changes he;
His gold no increase bears
From usury;
His hands no bribes receive
The guiltless to aggrieve.
Lo, he who thus doth live
Unmoved shall be.

Epistle: 1 Tim 5:11-19

But refuse to enroll younger widows, for when their passions draw them away from Christ, they desire to marry and so incur condemnation for having abandoned their former faith.

Besides that, they learn to be idlers, going about from house to house, and not only idlers, but also gossips and busybodies, saying what they should not.

So I would have younger widows marry, bear children, manage their households, and give the adversary no occasion for slander.

For some have already strayed after Satan.

If any believing woman has relatives who are widows, let her care for them.

Let the church not be burdened, so that it may care for those who are truly widows.

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,"
and, "The laborer deserves his wages."

Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

Sermon: The Predicted Savior

Isa 9:1

Lord's Supper

Bread: Thou Didst Reign on High

#241

Cup: Amazing Love

My Lord, what love is this, that pays so dearly
That I, the guilty one may go free?

Chorus: Amazing love, O what sacrifice!
 The Son of God, giv'n for me.
 My debt He pays, and my death He dies
 That I might live, that I might live.

And so, they watched him die, despised, rejected.
But O, the blood He shed flowed for me.

Chorus

And now, this love of Christ shall flow like rivers.
Come wash your guilt away...live again!

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

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