

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 21, 2025
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 All Ye Faithful
Invocation

#208

The Law of Christ:

1Peter 3:8-11

Pastor: The Apostle Peter summarized the moral law of God by saying,

Congregation: Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.

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

Corporate Confession of sin:

**Great ever-present God, We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have failed to fulfill your command for us to love one another. We have not followed the law you have given us, choosing instead to follow our own.
We have broken relationships; we have rebelled against you; we spend our time and money, on gifts for those who give us gifts.
We have not loved our neighbors, and we sometimes even we spend time with family and friends out of obligation rather than sincere love.
We have not heard the cry of the needy, the poor, the hungry, the broken as you tell us to.
Lord, we have sinned and ask that we be forgiven through the blood of Christ. In Him free us for joyful obedience. In this Advent season may our hearts to be turned to the Lord Jesus Christ, Our Messiah, Our Hope. 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 of all our sins.

Pastor: What has He done with your sins?

Congregation: He has trampled them underfoot at the cross of Christ (Micah 7:19).

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

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: Savior of the Nations Come (Tune: Aletta, #137)

Savior of the nations, come;
Virgin's Son, here make Thy home!
Marvel now, O Heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood;
By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh,
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned,
Still to be in Heaven enthroned.

From the Father forth He came
And returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell
High the song of triumph swell!

Thou, the Father's only Son,
Hast over sin the victory won.
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?

Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our king,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.

Confession of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q 15

15. Q. What kind of mediator and deliverer must we seek?

A. One who is a true and righteous man, and yet more powerful than all creatures; that is, one who is at the same time true God.

Song: Depth of Mercy

Depth of Mercy! Can there be
Mercy reaching even me?
God, the just, his wrath forbears,
Me, the chief of sinners spares.
So many times my heart has strayed
From his kind and perfect ways,
Making clear my desp'rate need
For his blood poured out for me.

Give me grace, Lord, let me own
All the wrongs that I have done.
Let me just my sins deplore,
Look to you and sin no more.
There, for me, the Savior stands
Holding forth his wounded hands,
Scars which ever cry for me
Once condemned but now set free

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel: Matt 15:1-21

Psalter: Ps 63 (Tune Forest Green #119)

God, Thee, my God, I'll early seek;
My soul's athirst for Thee.
On dry land, weary, waterless,
My flesh has longed for Thee.
Thus have I looked for Thee before
Within Thy holy place
That there I might behold Thy strength
And glory of Thy face.

Because Thy grace is more than life
My lips Thee praise shall give;
I in Thy name will lift my hands
And bless Thee while I live.
My soul with rich, abundant food
Shall be well satisfied;
With shouts of joy upon my lips
My mouth shall praise provide.

And when I turn my thought to Thee
Upon my bed at night,
As watches pass I meditate
On Thee with great delight.
Thou art my help; I sing for joy
In shadow of Thy wings.

For Thy right hand has held me fast;
To Thee my spirit clings.

Epistle: Heb 12:7-14

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?

If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them.

Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?

For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

Sermon: The Promise to Judah

Gen 49:8-12

Lord's Supper

Bread: What Child Is This

#213

Cup: 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.

Chours:

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 Father's side.

(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

CCLI License # 2267065