

Second Sunday in Advent
December 7, 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: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
Invocation

#193

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:

O, Lord our God, you are holy, righteous and good; we are broken miserable sinners. We presume upon your grace. We waste your blessings and resources.

In your mercy, break our hearts over our sin. Help us to see the great evil of them.

Help us to see how we defame the Name of Christ by our attitudes, words and actions. Grant us that true grief for sin that leads to repentance.

Keep us from falling into despair but rather help us to see the glory of the cross and the infinite merit of our Savior who died there. Thank you for your mercy to us in Him and may we live out our gratitude to Him in all that we do, through the merits and glorious name of the Author and Finisher of our faith the Lord Jesus Christ. 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: 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: Angels from the Realms of Glory

#218

Confession of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q 13

13. Q. Can we ourselves make this payment?

A. Certainly not. On the contrary, we daily increase our debt.

Song: I'm Forever Grateful

You did not wait for me to draw near to You,
But You clothed Yourself in frail humanity.
You did not wait for me to cry out to You,
But You let me hear Your voice calling me, and ...

I'm forever grateful to You,
I'm forever grateful for the cross.
I'm forever grateful to You,
That you came ... to seek and save the lost.

Pastoral Prayer

Gospel: Matt 14:1-21

Psalter: Ps 61 (Tune St Agnes, #332)

O God, give ear unto my cry;
unto my pray'r attend.
From th' utmost corner of the land
my cry to thee I'll send.

What time my heart is overwhelmed,
and in perplexity,
Do thou me lead unto the Rock
that higher is than I.

For thou hast for my refuge been
a shelter by thy pow'r;
And for defense against my foes
thou hast been a strong tow'r.

Epistle: Heb 11:32-40

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets--

who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Women received back their dead by resurrection.

Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life.

Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword.

They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated--of whom the world was not worthy--wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised,
since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Sermon: The First Promise

Gen 3:1-15

Lord's Supper

Bread: Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

#264

Cup: In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my Light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm;
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease;
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless Babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save;
'Til on the cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied,
For ev'ry sin on him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay;
Light of the world by darkness slain;

Then bursting forth in glorious day;
Up from the grave he rose again.
And as he stands in victory,
Sins curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am his and he is mine,
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death;
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand
'Til he returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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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