

Third Sunday in Advent
December 14, 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: Joy to the World
Invocation

#195

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:

Lord why is it that the world has such power in our lives and in our thinking? We have been redeemed by the precious Blood of Christ; we have been granted your Spirit to indwell us; we are in union with Christ, but yet we heed the siren call of the world in so many ways. We acknowledge here this morning that to do this is to hold your gifts in contempt, and this is a great sin! Thank you for the forgiveness we have in Christ, but we need a powerful renewing. Turn our longings from the world to Christ and his Kingdom. We know that the world will pass away, so by your grace, may we be among those who do your will in the world.

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, healing, redemption, and compassion.

Pastor: How has He shown you compassion?

Congregation: He cast all our sins into the depths of the sea in the death of His Son (Micah 7:19).

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

Pastor: 1 Cor 6:19-20

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Congregation: Holy Lord God, hear our words of thanks for sending us your Spirit, and that he now resides in us. Help us to follow him in all our thoughts, words, and actions, so that we would

live to your glory. May He cause the love of Christ to shine forth from us. Through Christ our Lord. 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: On to Bethlehem Town

[see insert]

Confession of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q 14

14. Q. Can any mere creature pay for us?

A. No. In the first place, God will not punish another creature for the sin which man has committed. Furthermore, no mere creature can sustain the burden of God's eternal wrath against sin and deliver others from it.

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: Matt 14:22-36

Psalter: Ps 62 (Tune Amazing Grace, #460)

My soul in silence waits for God;
He's my salvation proved.
He is my stronghold and my rock;

I'll not be greatly moved.

How long will ye a man assail
And seek to make him fall
As though he were a tott'ring fence
Or like a leaning wall?

They plot to bring his glory down;
In lies they take delight;
And while they bless him with their mouth,
They curse with inward spite.

My soul, in silence wait for God,
For He my hope has proved.
He's my salvation, stronghold, rock,
And I shall not be moved.

In God alone my glory is
And my salvation sure;
My rock of strength is found in God,
My refuge most secure.

Epistle: Heb 12:1-6

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

Sermon: The First Promise to Abraham

Gen 12:1-6

Lord's Supper:

Bread: Shepherd of Souls Refresh and Bless

#424

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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