

December 22, 2024

## **INVOCATION**

*P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

## **CONFESSION**

*P: Beloved in the Lord, let us confess our sins to God our Father.*

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

*P: Upon this your confession, I by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

## **Scripture Reading**

**Luke 1:39-45**

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with

a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

## **HYMN    The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**

- 1    The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
      With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
      "All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
      Most highly favored lady."  
      Gloria!**
  
- 2    "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
      All generations laud and honor thee;  
      Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
      Most highly favored lady."  
      Gloria!**
  
- 3    Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
      "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
      "My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
      Most highly favored lady,  
      Gloria!**
  
- 4    Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
      In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
      And Christian folk throughout the world will ever  
      say:  
      "Most highly favored lady."  
      Gloria!**

## **SERMON**

## **PRAYERS**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION**

*P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.*

**C: Amen.**

### **HYMN            O Little Town of Bethlehem**

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.**
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.**

**O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!**

**3 How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.**

**4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!**

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