

Advent Midweek Service December 3, 2020

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING VERSICLES

P: This is the day which the Lord has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

P: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

C: Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.

P: Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Make His paths straight.

P: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

C: Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord, our God.

C: I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before You of all sins. I have lived as if You did not matter and as if I mattered most. Your name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let Your love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin. I am sorry for all of this and ask for grace. I want to do better.

P: God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C: Amen.

P: Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

C: Yes.

P: Let it be done for you as you believe. 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.

RESPONSORY

P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P: He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

1st SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 5:17-20

Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

2nd SCRIPTURE READING

2 Peter 3:9-13

The Lord is not slow to fulfill His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

HYMN

Arise, O Christian People

1

Arise, O Christian people!
Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.

2 Prepare the way before Him;
Prepare for Him the best.
Cast out what would offend Him,
This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way:
The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing,
His path all even lay.

3 The humble heart and lowly
God raises up on high;
Beneath His feet in terror
The haughty soul shall lie.
The heart sincere and right,
That heeds God's invitation
And makes true preparation—
It is the Lord's delight.

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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 grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

C: Amen

HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
 Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
 In ancient times didst give the Law
 In cloud and majesty and awe.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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Acknowledgments

Service of Prayer and Preaching and Individual Confession and Absolution from Lutheran Service Book

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