

December 8, 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.**

### **APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***SCRIPTURE READING***

**Malachi 3:1-7**

“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear Me, says the LORD of hosts. For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned

aside from My statutes and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you," says the LORD of hosts.

## **HYMN    Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

**1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!**

**Behold, the King of glory waits.**

**The King of kings is drawing near;**

**The Savior of the world is here.**

**Life and salvation He doth bring;**

**Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.**

**To God the Father raise**

**Your joyful songs of praise.**

**2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;**

**His chariot is humility,**

**His kingly crown is holiness,**

**His scepter, pity in distress.**

**The end of all our woe He brings;**

**Therefore the earth is glad and sings.**

**To Christ the Savior raise**

**Your grateful hymns of praise.**

**5 Redeemer, come and open wide**

**My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!**

**O enter with Thy grace divine;**

**Thy face of mercy on me shine.**

**Thy Holy Spirit guide us on**

**Until our glorious goal is won.**

**Eternal praise and fame**

**We offer to Thy name.**

## **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      Hark the Glad Sound**

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.**
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.**
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,**

**And with the treasures of His grace  
To \_enrich the humble poor.**

**4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With Thy belovèd name.**

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