

Midweek Advent 1
Wednesday, November 30, 2022
11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.



Welcome!

To our guests and visitors:

We are glad that you are here with us today!
If you have no church home, why don't you consider joining us? Please speak to Pastor Parrish after the service and enjoy a special gift for visiting with us today!

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.

3. How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

4. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

The Invocation

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

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P: We light the first candle on the Advent wreath as we rejoice in the blessings that have come to us through the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. God told Abraham that through one of his descendants “all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3).

C: Holy Child of Bethlehem, you were born among us to live and die and rise in fulfillment of God’s promise to bless all nations.

P: The promised descendant of Abraham, Jesus Christ, is a blessing for people of all nations who trust in him for salvation. “So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith” (Galatians 3:7-8).

C: Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Through faith in your name, Lord Jesus, we have the blessings of forgiveness and salvation!

The Confession and Absolution

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C: Lord God, we are blessed with your love and salvation, but we do not always live as your people. We turn away from your Word and ways to follow our own selfish desires. We listen to the temptations of the world around us. We do not share with others the blessings we have received. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

P: God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the blessing for the nations, to atone for the sins of the world. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered” (Romans 4:7).

Hymn**O Little Town of Bethlehem****LSB 361**

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!

The Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God and Father, through the gift of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, you fulfilled your promise to Abraham, that one of his descendants would be a blessing for all nations. Jesus, the Holy Child of Bethlehem, was born among us to bring us the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation through faith in his name. Give us opportunities to use our earthly blessings to help those in need and empower us by your Spirit to be bold witnesses to our Savior, so that others will come to know the blessing of faith in Jesus. Hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise in his holy name.

C: Amen.

Hymn**Once He Came in Blessing****LSB 333**

Come, then, O Lord Jesus, from our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, that we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess you till in heav'n we bless you.

Come, then, O Lord Jesus, from our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, that we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess you till in heav'n we bless you.

The Old Testament Reading**Genesis 12:1-8**

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. And Abram took Sarai

his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle Reading

Romans 4:1-8

What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness." Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-56

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." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me

blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

The 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.

The Sermon Hymn The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came LSB 356

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!

The Sermon Be Born in Us Today Bringing Blessing

The Hymn of Response Arise, O Christian People LSB 354

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 my heart, Lord Jesus; turn not from me aside,
 And help me to receive you this blessed Advent-tide.
 From stall and manger low come now to dwell within me;
 I’ll sing your praises gladly and forth your glory show.

The Offering

The Prayers

- P: Lord and Savior, have mercy on those who are suffering through illness and loss.
 Watch over them and comfort them through the promises of your holy Word.
 Lead us as we seek ways to help and serve those in need so that we might share
 our blessings with them. Holy Child of Bethlehem,
- C: **Be born in us today. As we have been blessed through your birth, help us to
 bless others in your name.**

P: Lord and Savior, you were born among us in fulfillment of the promise to Abraham, that one of his descendants would be a blessing to people of all nations. By your suffering and death, you atoned for the sins of the world. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C: **Be born in us today. Like Abraham, we too are blessed to be a blessing to others. Guide and protect the pastors, teachers, missionaries and other workers who carry the good news of Jesus to every nation. Help us to support them with our gifts and prayers.**

P: Lord and Savior, Abraham believed your promise and his faith was counted as righteousness. Through faith in your name, we too are counted righteous. Through your suffering, death and resurrection, we have received the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C: **Be born in us today. We pray that the Holy Spirit will work through our acts of love and our words of witness so that others will come to know and worship you as Lord.**

P: Holy Savior, Lord of all nations, hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise.

C: **Amen.**

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

The Benediction

P: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

C: **For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name" (Luke 1:46-48).**

P: “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace”
(Numbers 6:24-26).

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn Come, Thou Precious Ransom Come LSB 350

1. Come, thou precious Ransom, come,
only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to thee all portals.
Come, thy beauty let us see;
anxiously we wait for thee.
2. Enter now my waiting heart,
glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
when thou art my guest divine!
3. Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.