



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 6, 2020

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The Mystery of God in the Manger

As We Gather

Who doesn't love a good mystery? And what greater mystery is there than the mystery of God's love? So great is His love that He come down to us in our own flesh, as a lowly baby, to redeem and save our lives from sin, death and hell. Today we celebrate the mystery of God in the manger!

Prelude & Welcome

Ringing of the Tower Bell

PREPARATION

624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

sts. 1-4, 7

- 1** The infant Priest was holy born
For us unholy and forlorn;
From fleshly temple forth came He,
Anointed from eternity.
- 2** This great High Priest in human flesh
Was icon of God's righteousness.
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;
His hand removed impurity.
- 3** The holy Lamb undaunted came
To God's own altar lit with flame;
While weeping angels hid their eyes,
This Priest became a sacrifice.

4 But death would not the victor be
Of Him who hung upon the tree.
He leads us to the Holy Place
Within the veil, before God's face.

7 With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

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Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Prepare the way of the Lord. Recalling our Baptism into Christ, we confess our sins to God in the full assurance of the gift of forgiveness by the mighty sacrifice of His Son.

C **O God, from the wilderness of lives disfigured and crushed by the devil, our own sin, and the sins of others, we cry out to You for the forgiveness of our sins, those that trouble us as well as those of which we are not aware. Restore our life and faith by Your own command for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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 to all of 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.

Lighting the Advent Candle

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P Let Your light scatter the darkness

C **and illumine Your Church.**

Candle Hymn

[tune: LSB 343 "Prepare the Royal Highway"]

We light the Advent candle
And thank the Lord for rest.
With peace, we know our Jesus
Has come to be our guest.
This peace beyond all knowing
Within our hearts is glowing.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!

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Salutation**P** The Lord be with you.**C** And also with you.**Prayer of the Day****P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.**Old Testament****Isaiah 40:21-23, 25-28**²¹Do you not know? Do you not hear?

Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,

and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;

who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,

and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;

²³who brings princes to nothing,

and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,

that I should be like him? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:

who created these?

He who brings out their host by number,

calling them all by name,

by the greatness of his might,

and because he is strong in power

not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,

and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,

and my right is disregarded by my God”?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,

the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;

his understanding is unsearchable.

L This is the Word of the Lord.**C** Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Colossians 2:1-9

¹For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, ²that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ⁵For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse for Advent 2



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

C REFRAIN

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Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our homage to demand.

- 2 King of kings yet born of Mary,
 As of old on earth He stood,
 Lord of lords in human vesture,
 In the body and the blood,
 He will give to all the faithful
 His own self for heav'nly food.
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven
 Spreads its vanguard on the way
 As the Light of Light, descending
 From the realms of endless day,
 Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish
 As the darkness clears away.
- 4 At His feet the six-winged seraph,
 Cherubim with sleepless eye,
 Veil their faces to the presence
 As with ceaseless voice they cry:
 "Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Sermon "The Mystery of God in the Manger"

Based on today's readings

ADVENT THEME HYMN "See God in the Manger"

See God in the Manger; His splendor above
 He left far behind Him, descended in love.
 His advent, so humble; His passion, so pure,
 His life to be taken our life to assure!

The myst'ry of ages, that God should appear
 In flesh frail and lowly, in cradle so mere.
 What mind can imagine this wonder of grace?
 What eye can envisage the love in His face?

And yet grows this myst'ry of love's perfect light;
 That God, the Immortal will yield up His life!
 From stable to Calv'ry, from manger to cross,
 He wins our salvation, though heavy the cost.

Dear God in the manger, now raised to Your throne,
 Be near to Your people whom You made Your own.
 When waiting is over, then Lord, hear our prayer,
 And take us to heaven to live with You there.

Prayer of the Church

Organ Offertory & StewardMINUTE

Offering Prayer

SACRAMENT

Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

[tune: LSB 822 "Alleluia, Let Praises Ring"]

O holy, holy, holy Lord,
You draw the nations ever toward
The joy of Your pure reigning.
For You rule all in heav'n and earth
With love and light, with might and mirth,
Your care the world sustaining.
So we beg Thee,
Save us, Jesus!
Come and free us
From sin's wages,
Blessed King of endless ages.

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Words of Our Lord

Lord's Prayer

- C** **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.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

[tune: LSB 822 "Alleluia, Let Praises Ring"]

O Lamb of God, You take away
The sin and guilt and shame that weigh
So heavy on our hearts, Lord.
Grant us Your mercy, hear our plea!
Without Your grace, Lord, we would be
Beyond all hope and wayward.
Still You come to
Share the myst'ry
Masked through hist'ry
That salvation
Is for ev'ry tribe and nation.

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Distribution of Holy Communion

347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

- 1 "Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over."
- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many_a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.**

- 2 What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.**

- 3 Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.**

- 4 As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.**

- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.**

- 6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.**

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.
Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Benediction

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

G Amen.

359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.**

- 2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.**

- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.**

- 4 O Savior, child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of glory,
Who dost our weakness know:
Bring us at length we pray
To the bright courts of heaven,
And to the endless day.**

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✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠

To God Alone Be Glory

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