



REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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Daniel Bohlken, Visiting Pastor

Second Sunday in Advent

December 4, 2022

OUR WORSHIP

Forgiveness

SERVICE THEME In the *Fourth Sunday in Advent* Reading (Matthew 1:18-25) we hear: "Mary will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins" (verse 21). Why is forgiveness so central to the Christmas season and so crucial for our faith? The answer comes in our Gospel Reading today, in which Jesus predicts Peter's 3-fold denial.

+ Preparing to Hear the Word +

INVOCATION

Pastor: We are individually connected to God when we are Baptized *into* the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, that is, when we are Baptized into a personal and powerful relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In a very real sense, in Baptism the triune God promises to be Emmanuel, that is, God with us.

People: Amen!

OPENING SONG LSB 357 vv. 1 & 4 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.**

Rejoice, Rejoice!

Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

**O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry ov'er the grave.**

Rejoice, rejoice!

Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

CONFESSION LSB 361, verse 4 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Pastor: Ours has been called the *age of anxiety*, and, the Christmas season especially, is a time when we are busily anxious about decorating our tree and home, sending and receiving Christmas greetings, buying and beautifully wrapping perfect presents. We are anxious about our own expectations as well as meeting the expectations of others. Added to that, Christian preachers frequently repeat the refrain that God is sorely disappointed with us because we are so focused on ourselves and what we must do that we miss the real reason for the season: Jesus and what He has done and is doing in our lives.

Moment for Self-Reflection

**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!**

GOSPEL PRONOUNCEMENT LSB 368 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Pastor: Our anxiety is rooted in feelings of guilt and condemnation. Sensing we are estranged from God, we are also anxious about fate and death, emptiness and meaninglessness. Yet, we hear the angel tell Joseph, “You shall give Mary’s child the name *Jesus* (which means *Yahweh* saves.) because He will save us from our sins.”

**Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.
Glo - - ria in excelsis Deo; Glo - - ria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Glo - - ria in excelsis Deo; Glo - - ria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee:
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo - - ria in excelsis Deo; Glo - - ria in excelsis Deo.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ALL: Father, send Your Holy Spirit that we might experience awe this Christmas season because of the gift of Your Son and the gift of forgiveness through His appearing, dying, and rising from the dead. We ask in the name of Jesus, Your beloved Son, our Emmanuel, Prince and Savior, the Same who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!

+ Hearing the Word +

ACTS READING Acts 4:8-13; 5:27-32

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is ‘the Stone you builders rejected, which has become the Cornerstone.’ ¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other Name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

²⁷ (A few days later) The apostles were brought in and made to appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this Name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this Man’s blood.”

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings! ³⁰ The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead – whom you killed by hanging Him on a cross. ³¹ God exalted Him to His own right hand as Prince and Savior that He might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

EPISTLE READING 1 Timothy 1:12-17

¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that He considered me trustworthy, appointing me to His service. ¹³ Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His immense patience as an example for those who would believe in Him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: These Readings are the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING John 13:31-38

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John the Evangelist, the 13th chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

³¹When Judas was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in Him. ³² If God is glorified in Him, God will glorify the Son in Himself, and will glorify Him at once. ³³ My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for Me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. ³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another.”

³⁶ Simon Peter asked Him, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” ³⁷ Peter asked, “Lord, why can’t I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You.” ³⁸ Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for Me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown Me three times!”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE “Advent Calendars”

MESSAGE HYMN *LSB 611, verses 1-3* “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

**Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.**

**Oh, the height of Jesus’ love, Higher than the heav’ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me – wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.**

**Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.**

MESSAGE "Forgiveness"

Introduction

Peter the disciple denied Jesus and Saul the Pharisee cursed Christ Jesus.

The Loophole

Peter says, "I know you acted in ignorance" (Acts 3:17).

Forgiveness Changes People

Peter the coward becomes Peter the courageous (Acts 4:13).

Saul the persecutor becomes Paul the apostle. (1 Tim. 1:12-17)

Forgive as You Have Been Forgiven

"He took pity on him, canceled the debt, and let him go" (Matt. 18:27).

+ Response to Hearing the Word +

OFFERTORY/OFFERING OUR GIFTS *LSB 370, vv. 1 & 3* "What Child Is This"

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the son of Mary!**

PRAYER & 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 Visible & Experienced Word +

PREFACE

Pastor: For those who are sensible of their weakness, desire to be rid of it and long for help, they should regard and use the Supper only as a precious antidote against the poison which they have in them. For here in the Sacrament you are to receive from the lips of Christ forgiveness of sin, which contains and brings with it the grace of God and the Spirit with all His gifts, protection, shelter, and power against death and the devil and all misfortune.

[from Luther's *Large Catechism*]

ENTERING GOD'S HOLY PRESENCE *LSB 507, verses 1-3* "Holy, Holy, Holy"

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

JESUS' WORDS

THE LAMB OF GOD *LSB 547, vv. 1 & 4* "The Lamb"

**The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes, God will provide the Lamb of price!**

Refrain

***Worthy is the Lamb, whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!***

**He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness.**

Refrain

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS LSB 387 390

HOLY COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give thanks to You, Father, that You have refreshed us through this gracious gift, and we ask that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Christ Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen!

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Emmanuel – *God is with us!*

God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is with you.

Beneath you to uphold you.

Beside you to encourage you.

Before you to lead you.

And within you to inspire and empower you.

People: Amen!

SENDING SONG LSB 611, vv. 4 & 5 “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

**Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.**

**O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.**

DECEMBER 18 – THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
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THEME: The God who is “I AM”

MESSAGE: “The True Way to Life”

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE: “Candy Canes”