

Worship Leader Edition
Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Vicar Stephanie*)

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

INVITATION- (*Assistant*)

In a world where so many are sorrowful,
God lights a candle of joy in our hearts.
We wait together for a Saviour,
Who will be Immanuel, Christ the Lord.
Hear the word of the Lord:

READING- (*Rob*)

“The Root of Jesse will spring up,
One who will arise to rule over the nations;
The Gentiles will hope in him.” Romans 15:12

CANDLE LIGHTING (*Assistant*)

“He Came Down”
Verse 4

ELW #253

He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah forevermore.

GREETING (*Assistant*)

L: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Assistant*)

L: Father God, there is no miracle as grand as birth. As we prepare for the coming of your son, Jesus, create in us new life. Transform us so that we may reflect the light of your son, and become beacons of goodness, kindness, compassion, generosity, honesty, patience, and peace, for the sake of the one whose name brings deliverance and life to all the world, Jesus Christ, in king.

C: Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING (*Lori Murray*)

Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.' The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Rob Norris-Weber

SONG OF THE DAY

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW #264

Verse 1

Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
Foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God's word!

Verse 2

God's people see him coming;
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God's word!

Verse 3

Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
Their voices join your singing:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God's word!

Verse 4

His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God's word!

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Assistant*)

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS (*Assistant*)

After each petition:

L: God of love,

C: **we wait in hope.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Assistant*)

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.

SENDING

BENEDICTION (*Vicar Stephanie*)

L: God most high, God with us, God poured out on us. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG

“Joy to the World”

ELW #267

Verse 1

Joy to the world, the lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Verse 3

No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

Verse 2

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

+DISMISSAL (*Assistant*)

L: Go in peace. Wait for the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE