

St. John-St. James

Ev. Lutheran Church & School

For
GOD
so
Loved the world
that
HE
gave
HIS
Only
SON

Third Sunday in Advent

December 10 & 13, 2020

WELCOME

The Savior Comes to Set His People Free

GATHERING RITE ON HOLY BAPTISM

M In the name of the Father and of the Son [**+**] and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

C Verse 1  **Baptized into your name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
Among your saints, your chosen host,
Buried with Christ and dead to sin.
Your Spirit now shall live within.**

M “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

C **“Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.”** (Jn 3:5,6)

M “Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us.” (Ps 51:5)

C **“But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”** (1 Co 6:11)

C Verse 2  **My loving Father, there you took me
To be henceforth your child and heir.
My faithful Savior, there you let me
The fruit of all your sorrows share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me
When threat'ning clouds around I see.**

M As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by
nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my
thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil
and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your
punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly
sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus
Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

C Verse 3  **My faithful God, you fail me never;
Your promise surely will endure.
Oh, cast me not away forever
If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled;
Forgive, lift up, restore your child.**

M “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” (Ephesians 5:25-27) Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son [✚] and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

Priden Prejudice Schmidt

10:15 AM service

C Verse 4  **All that I am and love most dearly—
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely,
And help me your own child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own
Serve any will but yours alone.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BE SEATED

Epistle Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil.

²³ May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

KINDERGARTENERS MUSIC

I Am Jesus' Little Lamb

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

☐ We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

(Creed continues on the next page.)

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Gospel Lesson

John 1:6-8,19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

¹⁹Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah."

²¹They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

²²Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

²⁴Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

²⁶"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Hymn of the Day:

Arise, O Christian People

Christian Worship, Hymn # 14

G Verse 1

♪ **Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.
Prepare to greet the Savior, Who takes your sins anyway.
To us by grace alone The truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven To all the world is shown.**

G Verse 2

♪ **Prepare the way before him; Prepare for him the best.
Cast out what would offend him, This great, this heav'nly guest.
Make straight, make plain the way: The lowly valleys raising,
The heights of pride abasing, His path all even lay.**

G Verse 4

♪ **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.**

Isaiah 63:1-3,10,11

“Isaiah Shows Us a Christmas Exchange”

1. Offered by an Anointed Savior
2. Offered to an Afflicted people
3. Offered for all the world to see

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

¹⁰ I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Sermon Response:

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Christian Worship, Hymn # 7

**🎵 ♪ Arise, Desire of nations; O Jesus, no appear,
The Hope and Expectation Of ev’ry Christian here.
With hearts and hands uplifted We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth’s redemption That sets your people free.**

THE SACRAMENT

*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship as believers, and we proclaim his death until he returns. As we celebrate the Lord's Supper, **St. Johh-St. James members** are asked to register with the ushers before or after the service.*

***Guests and visitors** wishing to commune with us for the first time are asked to speak with our pastor prior to the start of the worship service. We make this request out of a love for our Savior's teaching concerning the Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 10,11), and out of love for our guests, seeking only their spiritual good and blessing. We humbly ask for your respectful cooperation. May the Lord bless each of our communicants today with peace-filled hearts and a renewed spirit to serve and love their Lord Jesus.*

PREFACE

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C **It is good and right so to do.**

M It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came as the Light of the world so that the world may have light and life through him.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death and the devil's power.

(Prayer continues on the next page.)

By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C Amen.

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

A PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION

Lord God, have mercy on me a sinner. Forgive my open sins and my secret sins. Forgive the sins I know and the sins I do not know. Forgive the sins I did to please myself and the sins I did to please others. Forgive them all, Lord. I ask not assuming any worthiness on my part, rather I come in faith and at the invitation of your dear Son. Bless me through your sacrament, for his sake. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(After all those communing have received Lord's Supper, we conclude our celebration:)

M Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the true faith unto life everlasting. Be assured, your sins are forgiven.

G **Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER

M We give thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

G **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

As Angels Joyed with One Accord

Christian Worship, Hymn # 5

C Verse 1

♪ **As angels joyed with one accord
Upon the advent of our Lord,
So laud we all and bless the name
Of him who from the Father came.**

C Verse 5

♪ **He comes in water to the child
And cleanses it, from birth defiled.
This washing seals his pard'ning grace
And shows the Father's kindly face.**

C Verse 6

♪ **He come to us in bread and wine
To give himself—and gifts divine.
Oh, praise him for this sacrament,
Redeeming love's great testament.**

C Verse 7

♪ **Lift up your heads! All grief and pain
Shall vanish when he comes again.
Where we shall see him face to face,
There joy alone shall have a place.**