



FROM HEAVEN ABOVE

Third Advent Service
December 18th 2019

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Please sign the guest register in the entry
as you leave the church today.

TODAY'S SERVICE

December 18th, 2019

Liturgy: Service of the Word, WS page 22

Speaker:

Pastor Matthew Ude

Organist:

Lila Brown

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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 118:19-29

Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go through them, *And* I will praise the LORD. ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD, Through which the righteous shall enter. ²¹ I will praise You, For You have answered me, *And* have become my salvation. ²² The stone *which* the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. ²³ This was the LORD'S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵ Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. ²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD. ²⁷ God is the LORD, *And* He has given us light; Bind the sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar. ²⁸ You *are* my God, and I will praise You; *You are* my God, I will exalt You. ²⁹ Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He* is good! For His mercy *endures* forever.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Hymn 85:11-15 From Heaven Above (MFH 44)

INVOCATION

p In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

c Amen

CONFESSION OF SINS

p God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

c If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from all sin.

p If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

c If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

p Let us pray.

all **Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen**

p Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

c **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

THE WORD

Jeremiah 23:1-8 "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the LORD. ³ "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. ⁴ "I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the LORD. ⁵ "Behold, *the* days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ⁶ In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this *is* His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. ⁷ "Therefore, behold, *the* days are coming," says the LORD, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the

children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' ⁸ "but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn 646 - Silent Night, Holy Night (MFH 46)

SERMON

Luke 1:57-66 Now Elizabeth's full time came for her to be delivered, and she brought forth a son. ⁵⁸ When her neighbors and relatives heard how the Lord had shown great mercy to her, they rejoiced with her. ⁵⁹ So it was, on the eighth day, that they came to circumcise the child; and they would have called him by the name of his father, Zacharias. ⁶⁰ His mother answered and said, "No; he shall be called John." ⁶¹ But they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by this name." ⁶² So they made signs to his father-- what he would have him called. ⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, saying, "His name is John." So they all marveled. ⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue *loosed*, and he spoke, praising God. ⁶⁵ Then fear came on all who dwelt around them; and all these sayings were discussed

throughout all the hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶ And all those who heard *them* kept *them* in their hearts, saying, "What kind of child will this be?" And the hand of the Lord was with him.

THE LORD'S GIFTS CAUSE US TO MARVEL

God fulfills his promise.

Elizabeth and Zacharias respond in faith.

God blesses those who hear.

OFFERING

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

all In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me today, and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins, wherever I have done wrong, and graciously protect me tonight. Into Your hands I entrust my body and soul and everything else. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the devil may have no power over me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

all 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 The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
and give you peace.

Hymn 552:1-4 - Abide With Me

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