



ADVENT MIDWEEK - DECEMBER 15TH, 2021

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 15th, 2021

Speaker:

Pastor Matthew Ude

Pianist:

Vanessa Ude

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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 113

Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD, Praise the name of the LORD! ² Blessed be the name of the LORD From this time forth and forevermore! ³ From the rising of the sun to its going down The LORD'S name is to be praised. ⁴ The LORD is high above all nations, His glory above the heavens. ⁵ Who is like the LORD our God, Who dwells on high, ⁶ Who humbles Himself to behold *The things that are* in the heavens and in the earth? ⁷ He raises the poor out of the dust, *And* lifts the needy out of the ash heap, ⁸ That He may seat *him* with princes-- With the princes of His people. ⁹ He grants the barren woman a home, Like a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Heavenly Father, Your Son humbled Himself to be born of the Virgin and take upon Himself our sin. Grant us faith by the Spirit that we trust in Your Son's righteousness that He has poured out upon us; for You live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#91 "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

by Heinrich Held, 1620-ca.1659

1. Let the earth now praise the Lord.

Who hath truly kept His word
And the sinners' Help and Friend
Now at last to us doth send.

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

3. Abrams promised great Reward,
Zion's Helper, Jacob's Lord, --
Him of twofold race behold, --
Truly came, as long foretold.

4. Welcome, o my Savior, now!
Hail! My Portion, Lord, art Thou.
Here, too, in my heart, I pray,
Oh, prepare Thyself a way!

INVOCATION

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

P The Lord is high above all nations,
and His glory above the heavens!
Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?

C He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of His people.
He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.
Praise the Lord!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P God's Son came in meekness to bear your flesh in weakness. Confident in our Savior, let us confess our sins to God and receive His forgiveness.

C Gracious heavenly Father, forgive us for our lack of charity toward others. Instead of goodwill, we have borne malice toward others. By the merit of Your Son, who came with goodwill toward us, forgive our sin.

P Peace on earth shall reign for your Savior came in

meekness to bear your flesh in weakness. Therefore, 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.
Amen.

READINGS

Isaiah 66:1-2 Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? ² For all those *things* My hand has made, And all those *things* exist," Says the LORD. "But on this *one* will I look: On *him who* is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word.

James 4:6-10 ⁶ But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." ⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your*

joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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.

#95 "SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME"

by Martin Luther, 1483-1546

1. Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh--
Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.
3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the Virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned,
Still to be in heaven enthroned.
4. From the Father forth He came
And returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell--
High the song of triumph swell!

SERMON

Luke 1:46-55 ⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. ⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. ⁴⁹ For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. ⁵⁰ And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones, And exalted *the* lowly. ⁵³ He has filled *the* hungry with good things, And *the* rich He has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel, In remembrance of *His* mercy, ⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever."

DESPAIR NOT

MAGNIFICAT LUKE 1:46–55

- P My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant.
- C **For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.**
- P And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.
- C **He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.**
- P He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Lord Jesus, of whom His mother sang,
C fill our mouths with faithful songs that teach us
Your truth and that proclaim You to others.
- P Lord Jesus, whom ranks of angels hail in holy joy,
C fill our hearts with joy as we near the celebration
of Your birth that we might rejoice in You all our
days.
- P Lord Jesus, to whom is due all praise and glory,
C fill Your Church with humility that we seek not
our own praise but Your glory.
- P Lord Jesus, whom all on earth heed with gladness,
C fill the world with the faithful that they would pro-
claim You and that the Spirit through that message
would bring all the earth gladness.

- P Lord Jesus, in whose goodwill we rejoice,
C fill us with goodwill to all so that we would forgive one another.
- P Lord Jesus, who bore our flesh in weakness,
C fill us with confidence even in the midst of sickness for You dwell with us.
- P Hear us as we pray in Your name and as You have taught us:

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.

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. Amen

#554 "Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow"

by Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676

i. Now rest beneath night's shadow
The woodland, field, and meadow,
The world in slumber lies;
But Thou, my heart, awake thee,
To prayer and song betake thee;
Let praise to thy Creator rise.

3. The rule of day is over
And shining jewels cover
The heaven's boundless blue.
Thus I shall shine in heaven,
Where crowns of gold are given
To all who faithful prove and true.

5. Lord Jesus, who dost love me,
Oh, spread Thy wings above me
And shield me from alarm!
Though evil would assail me,
Thy mercy will not fail me:
I rest in Thy protecting arm.

6. My loved ones, rest securely,
For God this night will surely
From peril guard your heads.
Sweet slumbers may He send you
And bid His hosts attend you
And through the night watch o'er your beds.



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