

A rustic Christmas wreath is the central focus, set against a background of dark, weathered wooden planks. The wreath is composed of fresh green pine needles, several large brown pinecones, and clusters of bright red berries. The text "FROM HEAVEN ABOVE" is overlaid in a white, serif font, centered over the wreath.

FROM
HEAVEN
ABOVE

SECOND ADVENT SERVICE

DECEMBER IITH 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 11th, 2019

Liturgy: Service of the Word, WS page 22

Speaker:

Pastor Matthew Ude

Organist:

Lila Brown

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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 28

To You I will cry, O LORD my Rock: Do not be silent to me, Lest, if You *are* silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit. ² Hear the voice of my supplications When I cry to You, When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary. ³ Do not take me away with the wicked And with the workers of iniquity, Who speak peace to their neighbors, But evil is in their hearts. ⁴ Give them according to their deeds, And according to the wickedness of their endeavors; Give them according to the work of their hands; Render to them what they deserve. ⁵ Because they do not regard the works of the LORD, Nor the operation of His hands, He shall destroy them And not build them up. ⁶ Blessed *be* the LORD, Because He has heard the voice of my supplications! ⁷ The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him. ⁸ The LORD is their strength, And He is the saving refuge of His anointed. ⁹ Save Your people, And bless Your inheritance; Shepherd them also, And bear them up forever.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Hymn 85:6-10 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 33:12-22 ¹² "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In this place which is desolate, without man and without beast, and in all its cities, there shall again be a dwelling place of shepherds causing *their* flocks to lie down. ¹³ 'In the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the lowland, in the cities of the South, in the land of Benjamin, in the places around Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, the flocks shall again pass under the hands of him who counts *them*,' says the LORD. ¹⁴ 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah: ¹⁵ 'In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved, And Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is *the name* by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.' ¹⁷ "For thus says the LORD: 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; ¹⁸ 'nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle

grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually." ¹⁹ And the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying, ²⁰ "Thus says the LORD: 'If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, ²¹ 'then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests, My ministers. ²² 'As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I multiply the descendants of David My servant and the Levites who minister to Me.'"

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 645 - Behold A Branch Is Growing

SERMON

Luke 1:39-45 ³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ "But why *is* this *granted* to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ "For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ⁴⁵ "Blessed *is* she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord."

THE PRESENCE OF GOD CAUSES SHOUTS OF JOY

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 558 - All Praise To Thee My God This Night



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