

Sunday, December 16, 2018
3rd Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion



Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. **Amen.**

Let us come before God in confession.
To you, O God,

C: we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you. Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of ✝ Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.
Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you
always.

C: And also with you.

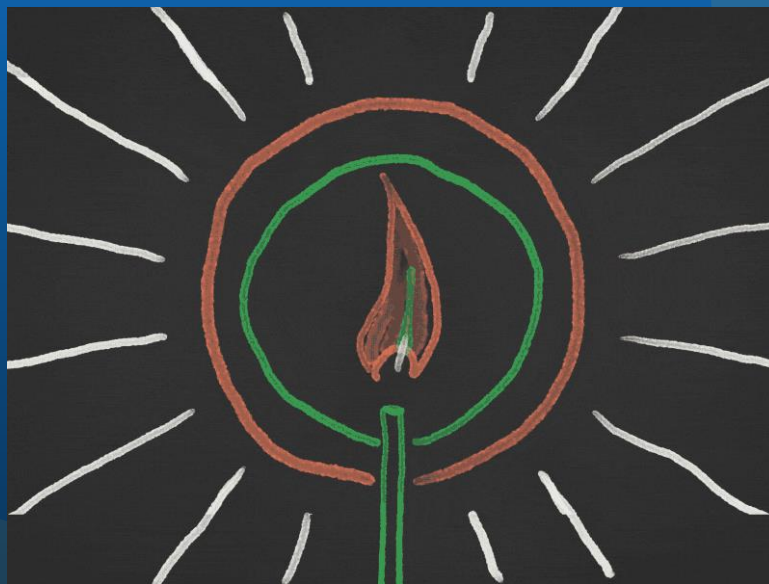
(Please greet each other in peace.)

Gathering Song: This Little Light of Mine (#677)

**This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.
Jesus gave it to me, I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**



Greeting

P: 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.

Kyrie (Red Hymnal p.147)

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Canticle of Praise

P: This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia.

C: **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia.

**Sing with all the people of God and
join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing and honor and glory and
might be to God and the Lamb
forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our
God, for the Lamb who was slain has
begun his reign.**

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of our children, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen!**

Advent Wreath: Advent 3

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

First Reading:

The gifts I'd leave beneath your tree,
Aren't those that you can touch or see.
Not wrapped in Christmas tissue gay,
But gifts to bless you every day.
The gift of friendship warm and true,
Is one that I would leave for you.

Good health and happiness and cheer,
To keep you smiling through the year;
The gift of peace that comes from God,
With prayer to guide each path you trod;
And when your heart has lost its song,
The gift of hope to cheer you on.
These are the gifts I'd leave for you.



Second Reading:

Today, we are celebrating the small gifts of Christmas by sharing some of our own. Sometimes we share our gifts by shining our own light and sharing God's love. Other times we make our gifts with paint and glue and make a mess. No matter how small or lowly our gifts may seem, we are all filled with God's love, and we all have an abundance of that love to share.

A long, long, long time ago, Julian of Norwich pondered the wondrousness that is God's love in every thing when she wrote this meditation on a tiny, little hazelnut.

"And in this he showed me a little thing, the quantity of a hazelnut, lying in the palm of my hand, as it seemed. And it was as round as any ball. I looked upon it with the eye of my understanding, and thought, 'What may this be?'

And it was answered generally thus, 'It is all that is made.' I marveled how it might last, for I thought it might suddenly have fallen to nothing for littleness. And I was answered in my understanding: It lasts and ever shall, for God loves it. And so have all things their beginning by the love of God.

In this little thing I saw three properties. The first is that God made it. The second that God loves it. And the third, that God keeps it.”

No matter how small, we are all made, loved, and kept by God.



Third Reading - Phillipians 4:47

(Illustrated Children's Ministry)

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Sometimes it is hard to be happy during the holiday season. Sometimes the holidays bring us anxiety and pain instead of happiness. But Paul isn't asking us to be happy. He is asking us to have Joy.

Joy is a gift that comes from being connected to God and others. When you are connected to others that love you, you can feel joy in your body like a warm hug, even if you might be having a bad day. Joy is something that we can practice and experience together through family conversations, worship services, or helping others.

Hymn of the Day

He Came Down

(Red Hymnal #253)

He came down that we may have love;

He came down that we may have love;

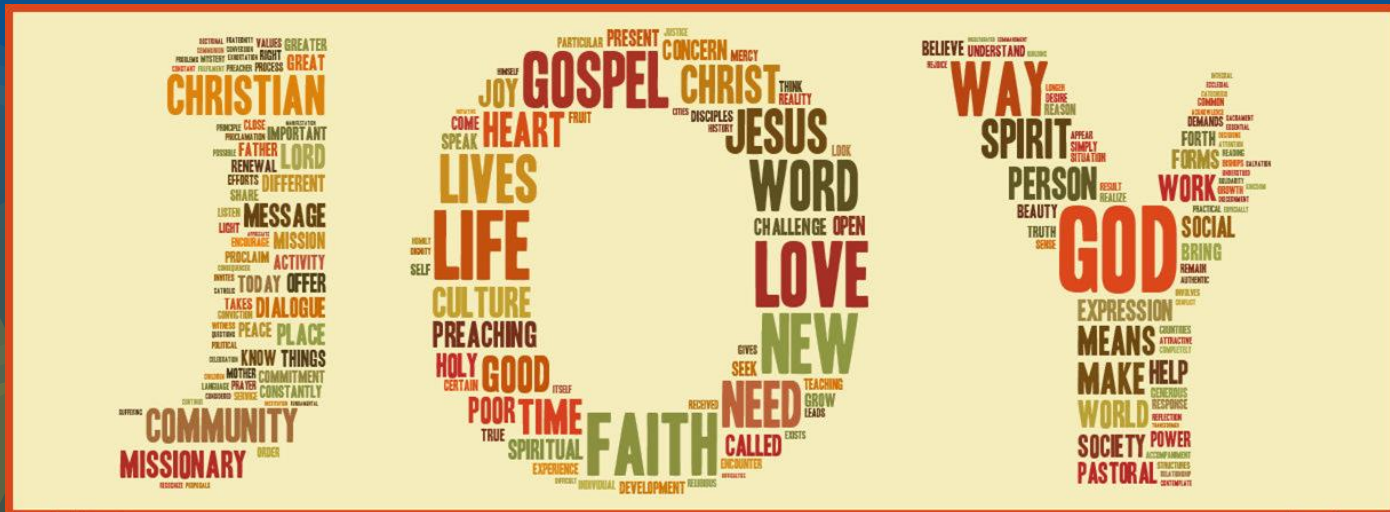
He came down that we may have love;

Hallelujah forevermore.

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

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

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.



Creed

**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.

Prayers of Intercession

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

INTERCESSORY RESPONSE: Wait for the Lord (Red Hymnal # 262)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FINAL INTERCESSORY RESPONSE

INTERCESSORY RESPONSE:

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY RESPONSE

(Red Hymnal #741) - Your Will Be Done

Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.

C: Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy **(Red Hymnal p. 153)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy. At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the
remembrance of me.

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant
in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the
remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

Invitation to Communion

P. God fills the hungry with good things.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

As Advent and Christmas are about the gift of from God of God's own child named Jesus, today is most appropriate for our children to deliver us the tangible means of grace as they serve communion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love.

C: Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The background is a solid blue color with a pattern of overlapping circles and rings in various shades of blue and green. The circles are semi-transparent and vary in size, creating a layered, bokeh-like effect. The rings are thin and also vary in size, some overlapping the circles. The overall composition is abstract and modern.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blessing

P: May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

We Are Marching

(Red Hymnal #866)

We are marching in the light of God, we are
marching in the light of God.

We are dancing in the light of God, we are
dancing in the light of God.

We are praying in the light of God, we are
praying in the light of God.

We are singing in the light of God, we are
singing in the light of God.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.



From sundaysandseasons.com.

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