

Fourth Week of Advent

December 21, 2022

God Welcomes Us

HYMN

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus | #87

INVOCATION

Psalm 89:19b–21, 24–29

P: ¹⁹You said: I have granted help to a warrior. I have raised up a young man from among the people.

C: ²⁰**I found David my servant. With my holy oil I have anointed him.**

P: ²¹He is the one whom my hand will sustain. Surely my arm will strengthen him.

C: ²⁴**My faithfulness and mercy will be with him, and through my name his horn will be exalted.**

P: ²⁵I will set his hand over the sea, his right hand over the rivers.

C: ²⁶**He will call out to me, "You are my Father, my God and the Rock that saves me."**

P: ²⁷I will also make him the Firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

C: ²⁸**I will keep my mercy for him forever, and my covenant with him will stand firm.**

P: ²⁹I will establish his seed forever. His throne will endure like the days of the heavens.

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.**

HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes | #109

God Speaks To Us

SERMON

Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. ²⁰But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.”

²⁴When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, ²⁵but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus.

HYMN

Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love | #156

God Receives Our Response

CREED

Apostles' Creed, Second Article

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the incarnate God using the words of the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation of it.

C: 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 shall come to judge the living and the dead.

P: What does this mean?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary; and that he is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood, and with his innocent suffering and death; in order that I might be his own, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

HYMN

God Rest You Merry | #126

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

Joy to the World | School handbells

PRAYER

P: Thank you, loving heavenly Father, for coming with power to the Virgin Mary and making her the mother of our Lord. Come to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we receive your saving word and rejoice in our Savior. For he lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven . . .**

BENEDICTION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

HYMN

Now the Light Has Gone Away | #570

Preservice piano Mia Moldstad, Johnny Moldstad
Preacher..... Vicar Max Kerr
Organist Karen Merseth



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