

First Week of Advent

December 6, 2023

God Welcomes Us

HYMN

Behold, a Branch Is Growing | #121: v.1–2, 5

INVOCATION

Psalm 146:5–10

P: ⁵Blessed is everyone who has the God of Jacob as his help. His hope is in the LORD his God,

C: **⁶the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything which is in them. He is the one who stays faithful forever.**

P: ⁷He obtains justice for the oppressed. He gives food to the hungry. The LORD releases prisoners.

C: **⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. The LORD loves the righteous.**

P: ⁹The LORD watches over the aliens. The fatherless and the widow he sustains, but he turns aside the way of the wicked.

C: **¹⁰The LORD reigns forever. Your God, O Zion, rules for all generations.**

P: 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.**

HYMN

The King Shall Come | #101

God Speaks To Us

HOPE CANDLE

Isaiah 41:1-4

¹ “Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. ² He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. ³ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; ⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less | #197

PEACE CANDLE

Isaiah 9:3-7

³ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

⁴ For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. ⁵ Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People | #102

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.

PRAYER

P: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness of doubt from our hearts, and fill us with the light of the knowledge of Christ; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.

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

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing | #588

Preacher..... Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad
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