

Lord's Day Service – Fourth Sunday in Advent December 23, 2012

Prelude: We silently prepare our hearts to worship our Lord

We appreciate the sounds of friends greeting each other and the words of welcome that are exchanged. They are evidence of the love and care we have for one another. However, when the musical prelude begins, we ask that our conversations be brought to a close and our attention turned to some quiet meditation in preparation to worship our Lord.

Entrance – God Calls Us to Worship

- * **Call to Worship** Luke 1:67-79
- * **Hymn of Praise** Trinity Hymnal, #145
Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
- * **Salutation & Responsive Scripture**
- Minister: He is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Luke 24:6, 34
- Minister: The Lord be with you!
People: And also with you! Ruth 2:4
- Minister: Our help is in the name of Yahweh,
People: Who made heaven and earth. Psalm 124:8
- Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of
the Holy Spirit!
People: Amen! Matthew 28:19

Purification – We Confess Our Sins to God

Almighty Father, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we have yielded to sinful thoughts of doubt, fear, and evil desire. We have also sinned against You in word and deed. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for our transgressions of Your holy law. Have mercy upon us, O God, for You have given Your Son to be the Savior of the world and have promised forgiveness of sin through His blood to all that believe in Him and by true repentance turn unto You. Having raised up Your Servant Jesus, You have sent Him to bless us, in turning every one of us from our iniquities. Accept us in Your beloved Son, who was made a curse for us, and was raised for our justification. According to the multitude of Your mercies, do away our offenses and cleanse us from our sins. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords. Amen.

(Silent prayers of confession are offered.)

Minister: Now lift up your heads and hear the good news! God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us. He has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us of all our sins.

People: **Thanks be to God! Our sins are forgiven in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Ascension – God Consecrates Us by His Word

- Minister: Lift up your hearts! Psalm 86:4
People: We lift them up to the Lord! Lam 3:41
- Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!
People: It is proper and right to do so! Psalm 92:1
- Minister: Truly, it is proper, right, and our duty that we should at all times, and in all places, give praise to You O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting King. Therefore, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, and with the Church on earth, we praise and magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and singing:

* **Hymn of Preparation** Trinity Hymnal, #147
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

* **Prayer**
Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

* **Lesson from the Old Testament** 2 Kings 23:31 – 24:16

* **Lesson from the New Testament** Matthew 1:1-25

Sermon “The Last Kings of Judah, the King of Babylon & the King of Kings”

Tribute – We Offer Ourselves through Tithes

* **Hymn of Consecration** Trinity Hymnal, #160
God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

* **Presentation & Dedication of Tithes & Offerings**

Prayers of the Church Requests & Lord's Prayer

Peace – We Commune with God

Words of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Mark 14:22-26

Sermon Notes – December 23, 2012

The Last Kings of Judah, The King of Babylon & The King of Kings Text: 2 Kings 23:31 – 24:16

1. Jehoahaz (aka Shallum, _____), younger son of Josiah, made king by the people of the land—3 month reign, taken captive to Egypt by Necho (23:31-34)
2. Eliakim (aka Jehoiakim, _____), older son of Josiah, made king by Pharaoh Necho—11 yr reign, vassal to Necho and Nebuchadnezzar (23:35—24:7)
3. Jehoiachin (_____), son of Jehoiakim – 3-month reign, taken captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar (24:8-16)
4. Mattaniah (aka Zedekiah, _____) youngest son of Josiah, made king by Nebuchadnezzar—11 yr reign, vassal to Nebuchadnezzar (24:17-20)
5. *This was Yahweh's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes* (23:32, 37; 24:2, 3, 4, 9, 19, 20)

Announcements

Rehearsal – Lessons & Carols

Following the Fellowship Break this morning, all lesson readers and musicians please meet at the front of the sanctuary for rehearsal.

Lessons & Carols

Please join us tonight at 7 pm for the Lessons & Carols Service.

**Have a very merry Christmas as you celebrate
the nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Scripture Memory

Our Scripture memory text is Luke 2. This week review v 1-12 and learn v 13-14.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Calvin: "God determined to adorn his own Son in a still more illustrious manner...to confirm our faith as truly as that of the shepherds...What then would be our obstinacy, if we refused to join with the choir of angels, in singing the praises of our salvation, which is in Christ?...We were redeemed from death for this purpose, that we might testify with the tongue, as well as by the actions of the life, our gratitude to God. The final cause, why God reconciled us to himself through his Only Begotten Son was that he might glorify his name, by revealing the riches of his grace, and of his boundless mercy. Whenever our salvation is mentioned, we should understand that a signal has been given, to excite us to thanksgiving and to the praises of God."

New Year's Eve Fellowship

Once again we will have a New Year's Eve fellowship and game night. Start time: 7 PM or anytime thereafter. End time: after ringing in the New Year; or stay for as long as you are able. Bring your favorite games and some refreshments to share.

Catechism

In January we will be encouraging families and individuals to re-memorize and review the Westminster Shorter Catechism (two questions/week), which is a workable summary of what we confess that the Scriptures teach. We have copies of the WSC and the Children's Catechism in west hall bookshelf.

Ladies Study

The new study book for the Ladies Study is, *The True Woman: the Beauty and Strength of a Godly Woman*, by Susan Hunt. This study is appropriate and encouraged for teens as well as the women of the church. If you would like to participate, please contact Sandy, Judy or Barb to get your book. Be prepared to discuss the first chapter on Tuesday, January 8th at 7:00 pm at the church. Books are available downstairs for review and purchase.

Set-up Teams

Set-up teams should arrive at 9:00 am Sunday mornings. If your family cannot set-up on your assigned week, please swap with another family and notify both team leaders (*). **Changes in bold.**

NEXT WEEK:

Team 4 December 30 J Pennington*, Dietzel, Nader, Nagle, N Pennington

FOLLOWING WEEKS:

Team 5 January 6 S Reich*, Burie, Gerth, **Hammer**
Team 1 January 13 Kingsley*, Cotey, K Hummel, Markert
Team 2 January 20 Dykema*, Greenwald, Jens, Kelling, Rucht
Team 3 January 27 J Hummel*, Cox, B Dykema, D Dykema, Zitzke