

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024

Liturgy: TLH p. 5

The background of the central section is a photograph. It features a lit candle in a brass holder in the foreground, with a warm glow. Behind it, an open book of hymns or a Bible is visible, with musical notation on the pages. The overall lighting is soft and atmospheric, with some bokeh light effects.

Songs & SILENCE



ST. JOHN'S

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #73:1, 4-5 *"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"*

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪ **Amen.**

Confession of Our Sins

P Pastor

C Congregation

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord unto us all.

C ♪ **Amen.**

The Introit

1 Sam. 2:1ff; Luke 1:46-47

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
- C** **My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation.**
- P** There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God.
- C** **The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.**
- P** The LORD kills and brings to life; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.
- C** **The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and He exalts.**
- P** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

The Gloria Patri

TLH #275:1,6

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

C ♪ **My soul doth magnify the Lord,
My spirit shall in God rejoice;
My low estate He did regard,
Exalting me by gracious choice.**

**So praise with me the Holy One,
Who cometh in humility.
Divine Redeemer, God's own Son,
Eternal glory be to Thee!**

The Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** ♪ **And with thy spirit.**

The Collect Prayer of the Day

- P** Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** ♪ **Amen.**



1 Samuel 2:1-10

And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. ² "There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. ³ Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by his actions are weighed. ⁴ The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength. ⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. ⁶ The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. ⁷ The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. ⁸ He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world. ⁹ "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness, for not by might shall a man prevail. ¹⁰ The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; against them he will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed."



Colossians 1:9-18

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved

Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

P The Holy Gospel is written in the eleventh chapter of St. Luke, beginning at the fifteenth verse:

C *♪ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!*



Luke 11:15-28

But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," ¹⁶ while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸ And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹ When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²² but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³ Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ²⁴ "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' ²⁵ And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of

that person is worse than the first." ²⁷ As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" ²⁸ But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

P Here ends the Gospel.

G *♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ!*

Confession of Faith

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: WS #705

"Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

✠ The Sermon ✠



Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

A Song of God's Generational Grace

I. As God had done for many, He'd done for Mary

II. As God has done for Mary, He's done for Me

The Offertory

C *♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.*

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #91:1, 4-6, 9 *"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"*

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

P The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C *♪ Amen, amen, a – men.*

Hymn: TLH #47 *"Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"*

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✠ 7 ✠

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

December 9th – 14th, 2024

Mon Luke 1:26-36 Gabriel brings the Word of promise to Mary. When she wants more information, she seeks it from the messenger rather than from human experience. The power of the Most High will do this.

Tues Romans 1:16-17 The heart of it all: The gospel of Jesus is the power of God for salvation, for it brings a righteousness from God which is received by faith. Salvation comes with Jesus!

Wed Romans 1:18-25 Mankind is certainly in desperate need of the power of God for salvation (v16), for God's anger is revealed against all who suppress the truth and worship the creation rather than the Creator.

Thurs Genesis 3:1-15 The reason for the Savior's coming begins with the temptation and fall of Eve and Adam in the garden. The tempter would not always lead them, but would be crushed by the woman's seed.

Fri Psalm 8:1-2 From the highest heavens to the lips of little children and nursing babies comes the praise (cp Mt 21:16) of Him who put a stop to the enemy of all mankind.

Sat Psalm 8:3-9 The Son of God came from heaven to become a son of man, to suffer and rise again in majesty. Jesus called Himself the Son of Man (Lk19:10) and Hebrews 2 applies these verses to Him.

Ushers	12/8	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	12/15	Kendall B, Larry B
	12/22	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
Cleaning	This Week – D. & J. Voit, N. & K. Voit (Wk. 4)	
	Up Next – L. Ruthenbeck, S. Ruthenbeck	