

Divine Service

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 24, 2021

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...” (Heb. 12:28)

Opening Hymn: 409 ss. 1-3

1 Hail, O Source of ev'ry blessing,
Father of our human race!
Gentiles now, Your grace possessing,
In Your courts obtain a place.
Grateful now, we fall before You,
In Your Church rejoice to live,
See Your glory and adore You,
Thankful for the grace You give.

2 Once far off but now invited,
We approach Your sacred throne,
In Your covenant united,
Reconciled, redeemed, made one.
Now revealed to Eastern sages,
See the Star of Mercy shine,
Myst'ry hid in former ages,
Myst'ry great of love Divine.

3 Hail, O all-inviting Saviour!
Gentiles now their off'rings bring,
In Your temples seek Your favor,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.
May we, body, soul, and spirit,
Live devoted to Your praise,
Glorious realms of bliss inherit,
Grateful anthems ever raise.

Invocation

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG..... Amen.

Call to Confession

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

CONG..... But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Confession

PASTOR: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

CONG..... Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

PASTOR: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CONG..... Amen.

The Introit of the Day

PS. 113:3, 1-2, 4, 7-8

From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised!
Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,
praise the name of the LORD!
Blessèd be the name of the LORD
from this time forth and forevermore!
The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens!
He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.
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.
From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised!

The Kyrie

PASTOR: In peace let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: For the peace from above and for our salvation
let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: 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.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: For this holy house and for all who offer here
their worship and praise let us pray to the LORD.
CONG..... *LORD, have mercy.*
PASTOR: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious
LORD.
CONG..... *Amen.*

Choir: "Come, Thou Bright and Morning Star"

#872 ss. 1-2 & 5

1 Come, Thou bright and Morning Star,
Light of Light without beginning;
Shine upon us from afar
That we may be kept from sinning.
Drive away by Thy clear light
Our dark night.

2 Let Thy grace, like morning dew
Falling soft on barren places,
Comfort, quicken, and renew
Our dry souls and dying graces;
Bless Thy flock from Thy rich store
Evermore.

5 Light us to those heav'nly spheres,
Sun of grace, in glory shrouded;
Lead us through this vale of tears
To the land where days unclouded,
Purest joy, and perfect peace
Never cease.

PASTOR: Collect of the Day.

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our
infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal
and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading: JONAH 3:1-5, 10

1 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time,
saying,
2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it
the message that I tell you."
3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word
of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city,
three days' journey in breadth.

4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!"

5 And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Gradual: PS 117:1-2a; 96:8

Praise the LORD, all nations!

Extol him, all peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

bring an offering, and come into his courts!

The Epistle: I CORINTHIANS 7:29-31

29 This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none,

30 and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods,

31 and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

Verse: MARK 1:15

Alleluia. The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: ST. MARK 1:14-20

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God,

15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen.

17 And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

19 And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets.

20 And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

The Sermon Hymn: 839 ss. 1-5

1 O Christ, our true and only light,
Enlighten those who sit in night;
Let those afar now hear Your voice
And in Your fold with us rejoice.

2 Fill with the radiance of Your grace
The souls now lost in error's maze;
Enlighten those whose inmost minds
Some dark delusion haunts and blinds.

3 O gently call those gone astray
That they may find the saving way!
Let ev'ry conscience sore oppressed
In you find peace and heav'nly rest.

4 Shine on the darkened and the cold;
Recall the wand'ers to Your fold.
Unite all those who walk apart;
Confirm the weak and doubting heart,

5 That they with us may evermore
Such grace with wond'ring thanks adore
And endless praise to You be giv'n
By all Your Church in earth and heav'n.

Sermon: “What Really Matters in Life’s Little Day”

ST MARK 1:14-20; 1 COR. 7:29-31

The Post-Sermon Hymn: 878 ss. 1-6

1. Abide with me! Fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O, abide with me!

2. I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the Tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O, abide with me!

3. Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

4. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see.
O Thou, who changest not, abide with me!

5. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me.

6. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes,
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

The Apostles' Creed (We Confess Together)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

The Prayers and The LORD's Prayer

The Collect for the Word

PASTOR: Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

CONG: Amen.

The Benediction

PASTOR: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

CONG: Amen.

Liturgist: Pastor Bill Abbott

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