

December 18, 2022

4th Sunday of Advent

Organ: Teresa Bernthal

Usher: Darrin Ream

Acolyte: Maxwell Kuehne



In this barren world, God alone offers life.  
In this passing world, God alone offers eternal salvation.



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## PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

*Psalm 24*

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, 2for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. 3Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? 4He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully. 5He will receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. 6Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob. 7Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. 8Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle! 9Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. 10Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!

## Order of Divine Worship

**Hymn: TLH #96**

**"Oh, Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly"**

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us come to God with a repentant heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to give us forgiveness. Our help and forgiveness is in the name of the Lord.

**C** **Who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.

**C** **And You, O God, forgave me of my sin.**

**P** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are sinful and unclean from birth and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Because of our sins, we run to you for forgiveness and for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your 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.**

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the sons of God and

has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C** Amen.

**INTROIT**

*Psalm 130:5-8*

**P** Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence.

**C** I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

**P** my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

**C** O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

**P** And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

**GLORIA PATRI**

*Latin for "Glory be to the Father"*

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef. The melody is in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are: "Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men." The score includes a C-clef for the first staff and an F-clef for the second staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

*Matthew 1:23*

Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.

The musical score for the Verse of the Day is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef. The melody is in a simple, hymn-like style. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us." The score includes a C-clef for the first staff and an F-clef for the second staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

**C** *♪* All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended. God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again; O thank Him for His goodness!

**P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING – Deuteronomy 18:15-19** “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, 16 according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’ 17 “And the Lord said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. 18 I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. 19 And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.

**GOSPEL READING – Luke 1:39-56** Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, 40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. 45 Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.”

## 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: TLH #73

**"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"**


**SERMON – Isaiah 51:1-6** "Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, You who seek the LORD: Look to the rock from which you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah who bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him." For the LORD will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the LORD; Joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody. "Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me, And I will make My justice rest As a light of the peoples. My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait upon Me, And on My arm they will trust. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished."

### LISTEN TO GOD

**In this barren world, God alone offers life.**

**In this passing world, God alone offers eternal salvation.**

## 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.

**Hymn: TLH #92**


**“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”**

### - OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS –

*Followed immediately by the Offering Hymn printed below:*

**OFFERING: TLH #442:2**

**“Lord of Glory, Who Hast Bought Us”**

- C**  Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee- Gladly, freely, of Thine own; With the sunshine of Thy goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by Thee, at length believe That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.







## PRAYERS & the BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24-26*

- 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.

**HYMN: TLH #89**

**“To Thee My Heart I Offer”**

-  **Dec. 18** 10:15am WH Service
-  **Dec. 21** 7:00pm Children’s Christmas Eve Service
-  **Dec. 25** 10:15am Christmas Day Service
-  **Jan. 1** 10:15am WH Service no communion or Pastor Fossum, Education, Trustees, and Council Meetings
-  **Jan 8** 8am Orlando Service 10:15am WH service with Pastor Fossum
-  **Jan 15** 9:15am Bible Class 10:15 Communion service with Pastor Fossum Annual Voters’ Meeting after church

## Announcements

**Last Week:** WH – 29 Orlando - 10  
**Total Offering = \$1823.25**

General = \$598.25 | Property Improvement = \$50.00 | Missions = \$50.00 | ILC Scholarship = \$100.00 | Revolving Fund = \$1025.00

**Children’s Christmas Eve Service** The Children’s Christmas Eve Service will be held Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. Come listen to the children proclaim the message of Christ’s birth as they present the service “His Name is Jesus.”

**Pastor Fossum** Pastor Fossum will not be here for Sunday, January 1. He will be coming the week later for the January 8 service at 8am in Orlando and the Winter Haven service at 10:15am. Sunday, January 15 he will conduct Bible class at 9:15 am followed by the communion service at 10:15am. After church that Sunday there will be the Annual Voters' Meeting.

**Cleaner (12/24):** Bernthal | **Acolyte (12/25):** Seth Bernthal

## **Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Dec. 19 – Dec. 24, '22**

**Mon Psalm 147:12-20** What the fathers most desired... As we near the end of the Psalms and the end of Advent, the Hallelujahs praising God begin to cascade over one another. It is He who protects, blesses, makes peace, fills us with good things, and the list goes on. Best of all, He declares His word to us, which judges us righteous in connection with His Son, Jesus Christ, whose birth we are about to celebrate.

**Tues Deuteronomy 18:15-19** What the prophets' heart inspired... Moses is addressing the Children of Israel before he is taken from them. Having warned them about the soothsayers in the countries that lie ahead of them, he points to the true source of Wisdom, the Prophet who is yet to come, who will speak to them the words of life.

**Wed Isaiah 12:2-3** The prophet Isaiah looks to the approaching joy when we are saved from God's anger over our sins. The Lord, our strength and song, is totally trustworthy, and His forgiveness means that we may enjoy the water of life!

**Thurs Isaiah 12:4-6** The day approaching is a day of joyful songs worshiping and thanking God and proclaiming His glorious deeds in all the earth. Truly He who comes to dwell with us is great in every respect!

**Fri John 1:15-18** What they longed for many a year... As great as John the Baptist was, the Savior who came after him was far greater. He was greater than the prophets and apostles, who all

received grace upon grace from Him. He was greater even than Moses, who brought God's law which shows our sin, while the Christ delivered us from sin, death, and hell.

**Sat 1 John 1:1-4** Stands fulfilled in glory here (TLH91). The blessings of God extend from the beginning of the world to all eternity. The Father sent His Son to give us life, to draw us to Himself and to one another. All of His loving-kindnesses in sustaining our present life pale when compared to the joyous eternal fellowship with Him and each other.