

# **Midweek Advent Service**

**Fierce Judgment, Final Grace**

**December 9, 2020**

**6:30 p.m.**

## **AS WE GATHER**

Our midweek Advent worship will focus on God's message given to us from the voice of the prophet Micah. Micah calls us to marvel at God's uniqueness and extravagant mercy in Jesus. What a blessing that in Jesus, God's fierce judgment gives way to final grace!

## **PRELUDE**

*"Variations on "Savior of the Nations, Come"*

## **WELCOME**

**✘ PREPARATION ✘**

## OPENING HYMN

332 Savior of the Nations, Come (vv. 1-5) (sung by soloist)

- 1 *Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.*
- 2 *Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh —  
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.*
- 3 *Here a maid was found with child,  
Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown:  
God was there upon His throne.*
- 4 *Then stepped forth the Lord of all  
From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man,  
His heroic course began.*
- 5 *God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.*

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*Please stand*

**INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

*(from Micah 4:1-5)*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: It shall come to pass, in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the highest of the mountains.

**People: Then many nations will say:**

Pastor: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob"

**People: "That He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths"**

Pastor: They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks.

**People: Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.**

Pastor: God's fierce judgment:

**People: Gives way to final grace!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Lord God, merciful Father, pour out Your Holy Spirit and deliver us from all evil. Open our eyes so we see our sin and selfishness. Inspire our repentance so we return to You.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Returning to our gracious Lord, let us confess our sins.

*Silence for reflection and confession*

Pastor: Merciful Father,

**People: We confess that we do not live according to Your Word and instead we follow gossip and slander, pride and pretense. We have become smug and self-righteous. Bring us out of our sin and clothe us with the garments of salvation, won for us through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Pastor: Our God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love! Out of that love He sent Jesus to shed His blood for us. By faith we stand forgiven, restored and empowered to live new lives. Therefore, I proclaim to each of you: Christ redeems you and restores you. Christ loves you and forgives you! God's fierce judgment gives way to final grace!

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God!**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE**

332 Savior of the Nations, Come (vv. 6-8) (sung by soloist)

6 *For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.*

7 *From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.*

8 *Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.*

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

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.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 4:1-5

*(The Mountain of the Lord)*

<sup>1</sup> In the last days the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. <sup>2</sup> Many nations will come and say,

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. <sup>4</sup> Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. <sup>5</sup> All the nations may walk in the name of their gods; we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

Jude 19-25

*(A Call to Persevere)*

<sup>19</sup> These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

<sup>20</sup> But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

<sup>22</sup> Be merciful to those who doubt; <sup>23</sup> snatch others from the fire and save them; to others show mercy, mixed with fear--hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

<sup>24</sup> To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-- <sup>25</sup> to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:24-33

*(The Birth of Jesus Foretold)*

<sup>24</sup> After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. <sup>25</sup> "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD - "Forever"**



## SERMON HYMN

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (sung by soloist)

- 1        *Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
          Born to set Thy people free;  
          From our fears and sins release us;  
          Let us find our rest in Thee.  
          Israel's strength and consolation,  
          Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
          Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
          Joy of ev'ry longing heart.*
- 2        *Born Thy people to deliver;  
          Born a child and yet a king!  
          Born to reign in us forever,  
          Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
          By Thine own eternal Spirit  
          Rule in all our hearts alone;  
          By Thine all-sufficient merit  
          Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

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*Please stand*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Creator God, stretch out Your hand in healing and protection over all that You have made, Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Just God, grant Your Spirit to the nations and send Your light to the dark places of the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Suffering God, inspire all people by Christ's cross and bring forth resurrection and life. Lord in Your mercy,

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Saving God, sustain all who suffer and release those imprisoned by pain or disease. Lord in Your mercy,

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Renewing God, take us and empower us to live according to Your will, making us shine with the love of Jesus, Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Promising God, keep us steadfastly trusting Your Word, just as You kept Your powerful prophet, Micah. Lord in Your mercy,

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch, that we may know Your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the arrival of Jesus Christ.

**People:** **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

*(from Micah 7:18-20)*

Pastor: No god is like our God!

People: **The Father, Son and Holy Spirit!**

Pastor: Pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression.

People: **He does not stay angry forever:**

Pastor: Because He delights in steadfast love.

People: **He casts our sin into the depths of the sea.**

Pastor: God's fierce judgment:

People: **Gives way to final grace! Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

387 Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
  
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
  
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.
  
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

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## POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

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### Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Ellory Glenn
Liturgist:	Theodore Laesch
Singer:	Ellory Glenn
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer