

***First Wednesday in Advent***

*“The Wooden Manger”*

DECEMBER 5, 2018

3:30 and 7:00 p.m.

*Luke 2 gives us the most descriptive picture of the nativity. Here we learn of our Savior being born to Mary and placed in manger. A wooden manger reminds us of Jesus' cross. A stone manger reminds us of His tomb, namely the stone rolled away from the empty tomb. Welcome to Christ The King and God's blessings upon our worship this Advent as we ponder, as Mary did, the Babe in a manger.*

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THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

3:30 p.m.

*We Three Kings*

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bells

7:00 p.m.

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (with Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus)*

Saxophone Solo

THE OPENING HYMN

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

LSB #361

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king and peace to all the earth!
3. How silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

## THE INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

P: *Let us confess our sins to God our Father.*

C: Have mercy on me, O Lord, a poor sinner. I confess my transgressions and humbly ask for your forgiveness. I believe Jesus lived the perfect life that I cannot; He paid the price at Calvary to redeem sinners, and He was born to be the Savior of the world. Hear my prayer, in Jesus' holy name.

*(Time of silence for individual confession)*

## THE ABSOLUTION

### THE RESPONSIVE PSALM (*Psalm 27*)

P: *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?*

C: The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

P: *When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,*

C: my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

P: *Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;*

C: though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

P: *One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:*

C: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple.

P: *For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;*

C: He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.

P: *And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;*

C: I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

P: *Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;*

C: be gracious to me and answer me!

P: *You have said, "Seek My face."*

C: My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."

P: *Teach me Your way, O LORD,*

C: and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

P: *Give me not up to the will of my adversaries;*

C: for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence.

P: *I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD*

C: in the land of the living!

P: *Wait for the LORD;*

C: be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

## THE SONG RESPONSE

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 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 6:9-18

<sup>9</sup> These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation. Noah walked with God. <sup>10</sup> And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

<sup>11</sup> Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup> And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. <sup>13</sup> And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. <sup>14</sup> Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. <sup>15</sup> This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark 300 cubits, its breadth 50 cubits, and its height 30 cubits. <sup>16</sup> Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above, and set the door of the ark in its side. Make it with lower, second, and third decks. <sup>17</sup> For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life under heaven. Everything that is on the earth shall die. <sup>18</sup> But I will establish my covenant with you, and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you.

Isaiah 42:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup> He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup> a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup> He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. <sup>5</sup> Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup> "I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations, <sup>7</sup> to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

## THE SONG RESPONSE

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

LSB #427

1. In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.

## THE SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 1:15-20

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

## THE CREED *The Second Article and Meaning*

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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

*What does this mean?* I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

## THE SONG RESPONSE

*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

LSB #427

3. When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure by the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

## THE ADVENT OFFERING

The Musical Offering

3:30 p.m.

*Away in a Manger*

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Bells

7:00 p.m.

*Gabriel's Oboe*

Saxophone Solo

## THE ADVENT PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

### THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

### THE SERMON HYMN

*Away in a Manger*

LSB #364

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

### THE SERMON

*"The Wooden Manger"*

Pastor Jason Cashmer

Luke 2:6-7

<sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### THE BENEDICTION

### THE CLOSING HYMN

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

LSB #374

1. Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undeified, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.
2. Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;

