

First Wednesday in Advent

NOVEMBER 30, 2022

3:30 and 7:00 p.m.

The Greek word in the New Testament for “announce” is “angellos,” the source of our English word, “angel.” Angels announced God’s word to the world in various times and places. The angel Gabriel announced to Zechariah the coming birth of his son, whom he would name John. We know this prophet as John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the Messiah. God’s blessing upon our Advent season as we also prepare the way for the Christ-Child. ...Pastor Jason Cashmer

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THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPENING PRAYER

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Vocal Duet

THE OPENING HYMN

The Advent of Our King

The advent of our King our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant’s form puts on to set His servants free.

Before the dawning day let sin’s dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, the new self now put on.

All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.

THE INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN *Isaiah 42:23-25*

All: “Who among you will give ear to this, will attend and listen for the time to come? Who gave up Jacob to the looter, and Israel to the plunderers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned, in whose ways they would not walk, and whose law they would not obey? So he poured on him the heat of his anger and the might of battle; it set him on fire all around, but he did not understand; it burned him up, but he did not take it to heart.”

(Time of silence for individual confession)

THE ABSOLUTION

THE SONG RESPONSE

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death despite the rage of foes.

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-3, 8-9

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁸ Who are these that fly like a cloud, and like doves to their windows?
⁹ For the coastlands shall hope for me, the ships of Tarshish first, to bring your children from afar, their silver and gold with them, for the name of the LORD your God, and for the Holy One of Israel, because he has made you beautiful.

Ephesians 1:15-23

¹⁵ For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Luke 1:5-17

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

THE SONG RESPONSE

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes and we shall see His face.

The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: Come quickly, King of kings.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the

Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE MUSICAL OFFERING

Mary, Did You Know

Vocal Duet

THE ADVENT PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SERMON HYMN

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world, open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see; anxiously we wait for Thee.

Enter now my waiting heart, glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine when Thou art my guest divine!

My hosannas and my palms graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee.
And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever may we sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King!

THE SERMON

Pastor Jason Cashmer

Luke 1:18-25

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and

they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined, 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.

Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined but no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!

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