

THE DIVINE SERVICE

DECEMBER 3, 2017 – 9:30 AM

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PRELUDE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. Psalm 95:2-3

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP HIM

INTROIT

SALUTATION MATTHEW 28:19

MINISTER: We are gathered in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

CALL TO WORSHIP ISAIAH 12:2, 4-6

MINISTER: Behold, God is our salvation;
Trust in Him and do not be afraid:

PEOPLE: **For the Lord God is our strength and song;
He also has become our salvation.**

Praise the Lord; call upon His name;
Declare His deeds among the peoples;
Make mention that His name is exalted.

**We will sing to the Lord,
For He has done excellent things;
This is known in all the earth.**

Cry out and shout, O inhabitants of Zion,
For great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!

* HYMN OF APPROACH No. 311

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

PEOPLE: AMEN!

* PRAYER OF ADORATION

* Congregation Stands

GOD DIRECTS US TO HIS TRUTH

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, 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 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we 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 worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic¹ and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins²; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen. ¹universal, ²Acts 2:38

* GLORIA PATRI

No. 735

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

* SCRIPTURE READING MARK 1:1-8

ELDER: The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:8

PEOPLE: AMEN!

GOD RENEWS US IN CHRIST

CONFESSION OF SIN

MINISTER: Test us, O Lord, and prove us,

PEOPLE: **Examine our minds and our hearts.** Psalm 26:2

Search us, O God, and know our hearts,

And see if there is any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

Acknowledging our sinfulness in the presence of a holy God, let us confess our sins corporately unto our heavenly Father saying:

Most holy and merciful Father, we acknowledge and confess before you our sinful nature, prone to evil and slothful in doing good.

You alone know how often we have sinned, in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love.

O Lord, have mercy upon us, who are ashamed and sorry for all these sins in which we have displeased you.

Teach us to hate our errors, cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sin, for the sake of your dear Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(SILENT CONFESSION)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MINISTER: Now lift up your heads and hear the promise of God to all who repent of their sins and trust in Christ:

God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Whoever believes is not condemned, but is pardoned and clothed with the glorious righteousness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

PEOPLE: AMEN!

* HYMN OF THANKSGIVING No. 197

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

PEOPLE: AMEN!

GOD INVITES US TO JOYFUL SACRIFICE

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

* DOXOLOGY No. 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

THE LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father, which 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GOD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

* THE SERMON TEXT JOHN 5:39-47

MINISTER: This is the word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: AMEN!

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

**GOD IS NOT SILENT;
HIS WORD TESTIFIES OF CHRIST**



GOD FEEDS US AT HIS BANQUET TABLE

* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 198

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates! – vs. 1-4

PEOPLE: AMEN!

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

GOD BLESSES & SENDS US OUT

* HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 342

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation – vs. 1-2, 4-5

PEOPLE: AMEN!

* BENEDICTION NUMBERS 6:24-26

* CONGREGATIONAL THREEFOLD AMEN No. 740

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

DECEMBER 3, 2017 – 6:00 PM

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

RESPONSIVE READING PAGES 821-22

PSALM 103

PSALM 18:27-33 Trinity Psalter

EVENING PRAYER

* SERMON TEXT PSALM 30

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

JOY COMES WITH THE MORNING

BENEDICTION 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

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OFFICE HOURS: Tues – Fri ♦ 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

SECRETARY: Mindy Ellis