

HEAR THE GLAD SOUND!

THE SAVIOR COMES

DECEMBER 5, 2012

Hymns: 23, 391, 12:2

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light that in the last day, when our Lord Jesus Christ shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 24 (p. 73 CW)

Special Music

11:00 a.m. *Come to Us* (gr. 7-8)
7:00 p.m. *The Advent of our King* (choir)

The Scripture of Prophecy

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Scripture of Fulfillment

Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon *“He Comes to Those in Darkness”* John 3:1-21

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

“How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!”

Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.”

Responsive Prayer

M: We lift up our souls to you, O Lord.

C: **Make us to know your ways and teach us your paths.**

M: Lead us in your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation.

C: **O Holy Father, we humbly implore you, help us believe your promises.**

M: As your Old Testament people waited eagerly for the advent of the Savior,

C: **Help us with the same eagerness to welcome the Lord Jesus into our hearts by faith.**

M: Lead us by your Holy Spirit to an understanding of our sinfulness and our need for repentance.

C: **Help us to hate sin and love righteousness.**

M: Be our strength in the hour of temptation and help us to serve you by bringing glory to your name.

C: **Send the light of the Gospel to the ends of the earth that all may know your love in Jesus Christ.**

M: Grant your abiding peace to all who are gathered in your house today.

C: **To those among us who are afflicted, grant your strength so that they may bear their burdens in Christian hope and confidence.**

M: Grant, O Lord, that our lips and lives be a reflection of hearts that are truly thankful for your great mercy.

C: **This we ask in the name of the King of kings and the Lord of lords, our Savior Jesus Christ.**

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MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP 2012

STAND

GATHERING

- (sung) M: Lord Jesus Christ, be present now,
Our hearts in true devotion bow,
- C: Your Spirit send with grace divine,
And let your truth within us shine.
- Unseal our lips to sing your praise,
Our souls to you in worship raise,
Make strong our faith, increase our light
That we may know your name aright.
- Glory to God the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise throughout eternity! (tune of CW 21)

LITANY

- M: We rejoice, heavenly Father, that you have stirred up your
might and have come to save us.
- C: **Our spiritual eyes turn toward Bethlehem, the birthplace
of your Son, as foretold by the prophet Micah.**
- M: We accept with joy the fulfillment of your prophecy.
- C: **As John the Baptist recognized your Son before he was
born, help us also to recognize him as your Son and our
Savior.**
- M: In a most marvelous manner, you prepared a sacrifice for our
sins in the womb of the Virgin Mary.
- C: **Send us your Holy Spirit that we may truly believe and
accept this miracle of your love.**

M: As we anticipate with joy the celebration of his birth,

C: Grant us your grace that we may see in him the greatness of your love for us. Amen.

(sung) All glory be to God on high,
Who has our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh,
The strife at last is ended.
The Father's love, the Savior's birth,
Bring peace, good will, to all the earth;
Oh, thank him for his goodness! (CW 263)

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We confess, almighty God, that we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

C: We have followed our own ways and the desires of our hearts instead of your will and way.

M: We have broken your commandments and neglected your righteous decrees.

C: We have offended you, our mighty and eternal God.

M: There is no health in us.

C: O Lord, have mercy on us.

M: For the sake of your great mercy, O Lord, forgive us. Spare us the just punishment our sins deserve according to your promises declared to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

C: And grant that for his sake, we may live sober, upright and godly lives to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

(sung) O Jesus Christ, the only Son
Of God, your heav'nly Father,
You did for all our sins atone,
And your lost sheep you gather.
O Lamb of God, to you on high
From depths of woe we sinners cry,
Have mercy on us, Jesus! (CW 263)

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

M: God, our heavenly Father, has taken away your guilt and punishment. Because of the living and dying of God's appointed Lamb, our Lord Jesus Christ, he has forgiven you and restored you to your Father's house. May God grant you peace and joy as you await his return from heaven to gather his people home.

C: Amen.

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE

(CW 12)

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne And ev'ry voice a song.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
You welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring With your beloved name.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

M: ... now and forever.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE WORD

PSALM OF THE DAY

THE SCRIPTURE OF PROPHECY

THE SCRIPTURE OF FULFILLMENT

HYMN

SERMON

OFFERING

SENDING

STAND

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

BE SEATED

HYMN

STAND

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN

Please return this service folder to an usher as you leave. Thank you