



**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Third Sunday of Advent**

**Prospect Heights, IL
December 13, 2020**

JESUS, THE LIFE OF JESSE'S TREE

AS WE GATHER

“This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). What a beautiful proclamation from the Father! Jesus is more than meets the eye—more than a mere man. He is the Son of God. Yet, His identity will be challenged. Immediately following His Baptism, Jesus is tempted by Satan in the wilderness. He tempts, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread” (Luke 4:3). But Jesus remains faithful and does not sin. Then, at the cross, we hear a similar temptation from those gathered, “If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross” (Matthew 27:40). But again, Jesus remains faithful, doing the will of His Father. Rejoice that for Jesus’ sake, God looks at you as His baptized child and says, “This is My beloved son, my beloved daughter, with whom I am well pleased.” What a beautiful proclamation from our heavenly Father!

+ PREPARATION +

349 HARK THE GLAD SOUND

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| 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne
And ev’ry voice a song. | 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor. |
| 2 He comes the pris’ners to release,
In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield. | 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav’n’s eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name. |

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INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 11:1; Romans 6:4; Matthew 3:17

- P** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
C and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- P** We were buried therefore with Him
C by baptism into death, in order that,
P just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,
C we too might walk in newness of life.
- P** Behold, a voice from heaven said,
C “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Behold, the true light has come into the world. Let us enter into His presence, confessing our sins and receiving His forgiveness.
- C** Lord God, our heavenly Father, hear us as we confess the darkness of our waywardness and sin, especially our reluctance or refusal to rejoice, pray, or give thanks amid the troubles we have brought upon ourselves. Make us truly repentant, that we may receive the holiness of faith in our Savior Jesus Christ, the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.

- P** The true light has come. To all who receive Him, He makes to be the children of God. Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

- P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:
C Come, Lord Jesus.

- P** All those who await His appearance pray:
C Come, Lord Jesus.

- P** The whole creation pleads:
C Come, Lord Jesus.

- P** Awaiting the shoot from the stump of Jesse, we implore:
C Come, Lord Jesus.

(As the hymn is sung, the candles of the Advent wreath and/or on the altar are lighted.)

891 O LIGHT WHOSE SPLENDOR

sts. 1, 3

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|---|---|
| <p>1 O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens
 With radiance brighter than the sun,
 Pure gleam of God's unending glory,
 O Jesus, blest Anointed One;</p> | <p>3 In all life's brilliant timeless moments,
 Let faithful voices sing Your praise,
 O Son of God, our Life-bestower,
 Whose glory lightens endless days.</p> |
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who revealed who Jesus truly is, bringing to light His identity as You proclaimed, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

ROMANS 6:1–11

P A reading from Romans, the sixth chapter.

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

MATTHEW 3:13–17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

346 WHEN ALL THE WORLD WAS CURSED

1 When all the world was cursed
By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came
With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal
The greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown,
As Savior he proclaimed.

2 Before he yet was born,
He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord
Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream,
A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him
Of whom the prophets told:

3 Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,
Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win.

4 O grant, dear Lord of love,
That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John,
Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk
Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with Him
In His eternal day.

SERMON

Apostles' Creed

C 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For the Holy Christian Church throughout the world and for all who confess the name of Christ, that God guard and defend us from all temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For Matthew, our Synod President, Allan, our District President, for all pastors and servants of Christ, that they proclaim with faithfulness and clarity the true light of the Gospel in all they do, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the government and all who have been set into positions of leadership, that they use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of all people, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all who suffer from hunger, homelessness, poverty, or unemployment, that God's great mercy and love preserve and relieve them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who are sick, Hedy Beer, Kathleen, Alicia, Sallyann, Sheila, Lou, Jean Staffa, Dana, Kaylee, Leah, Terri, Rory, Jean, Brad Koelper, Ray Wirsing, Rod Isaacson, Sharlene, Fran, Jeanne Zundel, Doug, Paula, Jim, Wally Olson & Pastor Barber, that God grant healing to their bodies and strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who rejoice in the rich blessings of God, that they always remember the Giver of every gift and give Him heartfelt thanks, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

BLESSING

P There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

C and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C Amen.

345 HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING

1 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!
"Christ is near," we hear it say.
"Cast away the works of darkness,
All you children of the day!"

2 Startled at the solemn warning,
Let the earthbound soul arise;
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

3 See, the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heav'n.
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all, to be forgiv'n;

4 So, when next He comes in glory
And the world is wrapped in fear,
He will shield us with His mercy
And with words of love draw near.

△ 5 Honor, glory, might, dominion
To the Father and the Son
With the ever-living Spirit
While eternal ages run!

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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