

THE DIVINE SERVICE

December 15, 2019

The Third Sunday in Advent

In Preparation



Please observe silence as you read, pray, and meditate.

PRELUDE

Michael Phillips

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen, Op. 122 – Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, Op. 67, No. 2 – Max Reger (1873-1916)

Savior of the nations, come, show yourself the virgin's son.
Marvel, heaven, wonder, earth, that our God chose such a birth.

WORDS OF PREPARATION

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, through John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, you once proclaimed salvation; now grant that we may know this salvation and serve you in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Service of Entrance



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Once he came in blessing, all our sins redressing;
 Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
 Bore the cross to save us; hope and freedom gave us.

Thus, if we have known him, not ashamed to own him,
 Nor have spurned him coldly but will trust him boldly,
 He will then receive us, heal us, and forgive us. (Michael Weisse)

❖ HYMN OF INVOCATION

Martin Luther, 1524; based on a text by Ambrose, 340-397

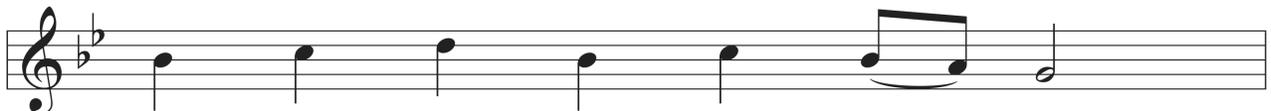
Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come,
 2. *No man's pow'r of mind or blood,*
 3. Here a maid was found with child,
 4. *Then stepped forth the Lord of all*
 5. God the Fa - ther was his source,



show your - self the vir - gin's son.
but the Spir - it of our God,
 vir - gin pure and un - de - filed.
from his pure and king - ly hall;
 back to God he ran his course.



Mar - vel, heav - en, won - der, earth,
made the Word of God be flesh,
 In her vir - tues it was known
God of God, be - com - ing man,
 In - to hell his road went down,



that our God chose such a birth.
wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God had made her heart his throne.
his he - ro - ic course be - gan.
 back then to his throne and crown.

6. Father's equal, you will win
 Vict'ries for us over sin.
 Might eternal, make us whole;
 Heal our ills of flesh and soul.

7. From the manger newborn light
 Sends a glory through the night.
 Night cannot this light subdue.
 Faith keeps springing ever new.

8. Glory to the Father sing,
 Glory to the Son, our king,
 Glory to the Spirit be
 Now and through eternity.

Minister: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!
People: **The Lord has made known his salvation and revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
 Minister: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**
 Minister: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

... world without end. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Trisagion

Alexander Archangelsky, 1846-1924

Ho - - - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,
 ho - ly im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

Minister: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Minister: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

People: **Almighty and most merciful Father; we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent; according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF ABSOLUTION

Minister: Hear the Word of the Gospel: “Christ has died for our sins and been raised for our justification.” All you who repent of your sin and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation, rejoice and be glad and give glory to the Lord who has taken away all of your sins in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

❖ Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
People: **the Maker of heaven and earth.**
 Minister: O Lord, open our lips,
People: **and our mouth will declare your praise.**

❖ THE GLORIA AND HYMN OF GRATITUDE

Gloria in Excelsis
Nikolaus Decius, 1525

Deutsche Evangelisch Messe, 1539

All glo - ry be to thee, Most High, to thee all ad - o - ra - tion; in grace and
truth thou draw - est nigh to of - fer us sal - va - tion; thou show - est thy good - will to
men, and peace shall reign on earth a - gain; we praise thy name for - ev - er.

Johann Rist, 1651

Neu Catechismus-Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598

1. A-rise, sons of the King - dom! The King is draw - ing nigh;
2. A-rise, ye droop - ing mourn - ers! The King is ver - y near;
3. A-rise, ye much af - flict - ed! The King is not a - far.
4. A-rise, ye poor and need - y! The King pro - vides for you;

a - rise and hail with glad - ness the Ru - ler from on high.
a - way with grief and sor - row! For, lo, your Help is here.
Re-joice, ye long de - ject - ed, be - hold the Morn - ing Star!
he comes with suc - cor speed - y, with mer - cy ev - er new.

Ye Chris - tians, hast - en forth! Your praise and hom - age bring him
Be - hold, in man - y a place - Oh, bless - ed con - so - la - tion! -
The Lord will give you joy; tho' trou - bles now dis - tress you,
Re - ceive your gra - cious King, the Giv - er of all bless - ing,

and glad ho - san - nas sing him; naught else your love is worth.
you find him, your Sal - va - tion, with - in his means of grace.
with com - fort he will bless you, e'en death will he de - stroy.
hail him, his name con - fess - ing, and glad ho - san - nas sing.

5. Be righteous, ye his subjects,
The King is just and true;
Prepare for him a highway,
Make all things straight and new.
For, lo, he means it well;
Then willing bear the crosses
That he himself imposes,
Nor let your courage fail.

6. Oh, rich the gifts thou bringest,
Thyself made poor and weak!
O Love beyond expression,
That thus can sinners seek!
For this, O Lord, will we
Our joyous tribute bring thee
And glad hosannas sing thee
And ever grateful be.

The Service of the Word



THE PSALTER

Psalm 146



Choir: *Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!*
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.
Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,
for there is no | help in them.

All: **When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,**
and in that day their thoughts | perish.
Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help!
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;
Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps his promise for | ever;
Who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,
and food to those who | hunger.
The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the | stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the | wicked.

Choir: *The LORD shall reign for | ever,*
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Halle- | lujah!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son
and to the Holy | Spirit;
As it was in the be- | ginning,
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

CHORAL HYMN

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming – Hugo Distler (1908-1942)

Lo! how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As men of old have sung.

It came a floweret bright
Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.

To show God's love aright,
She bore to men a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.

This flower whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.

True man, yet very God!
From sin and death he saves us
And lightens every load.

(German hymn, 1500)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

❖ OUR RESPONSE

Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847

Swedish melody, 17th cent.



1. Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2. God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
 3. Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4. His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too should bring,
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail__ you!
 All lands, bow down be - fore him! All na - tions, now a - dore__ him!
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

The Hymns

Redeemer Presbyterian Church is well-known as a singing church! We take Paul's words in Colossians 3:16 seriously, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." The hymns that we sing represent some of the best music that the church has produced over the past 2,000 years. We stand in a long tradition of church music and we work very hard to choose hymns that are true, good, and beautiful. We want to sing true hymns, those that accurately reflect biblical teaching about God, this world, and our life in it. We want to sing good hymns, those that fit the place in the service where we sing them and have also stood the test of time. And, we want to sing beautiful hymns, those whose lyrics and tune unite to convey the message of the hymn in a manner that gives the congregation full voice. So, lift up your voice and join with all the angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, to praise and magnify God's glorious name!

WELCOME

At this time, please sign and pass the attendance pads down the row.

INTERLUDE

PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION AND THANKSGIVING

Ruling Elder Bob Phillips

Unison: 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 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.

❖ **THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 11:2-15

Minister: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to you, O Christ.

❖ **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

MORNING SERMON

Rev. Eric Landry

John the Doubter

Matthew 11:2-15

The Service of the Table



❖ CORPORATE CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

Unison: 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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

❖ Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you!

Minister: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Members of the congregation greet one another with a sign of friendship such as the ancient words that the church has used over the centuries, "The peace of Christ be with you," and the response, "And also with you."

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Minister: The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof;

People: **the world, and they that dwell therein.**

HYMN OF GRATITUDE TO GOD

Charles Wesley, 1744

Psalmodia Sacra, 1715



1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4. By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

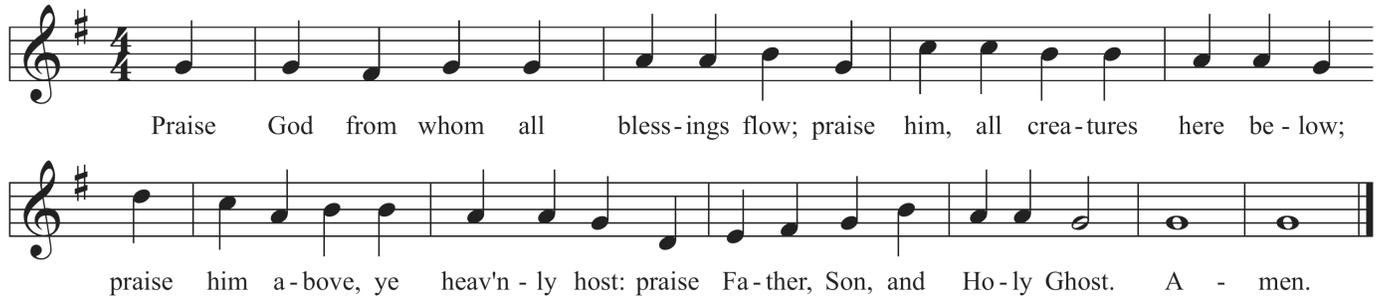


from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

- ❖ Minister: Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendor, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

DOXOLOGY

Thomas Tallis, c. 1567



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 DEDICATION

Minister: We love you, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer. We present you with these gifts, which came first from your hand, as part of our sacrifice of praise. Use them, O God, for your glory and our good. In the name of Jesus, we pray.

People: **Amen.**

❖ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

People: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

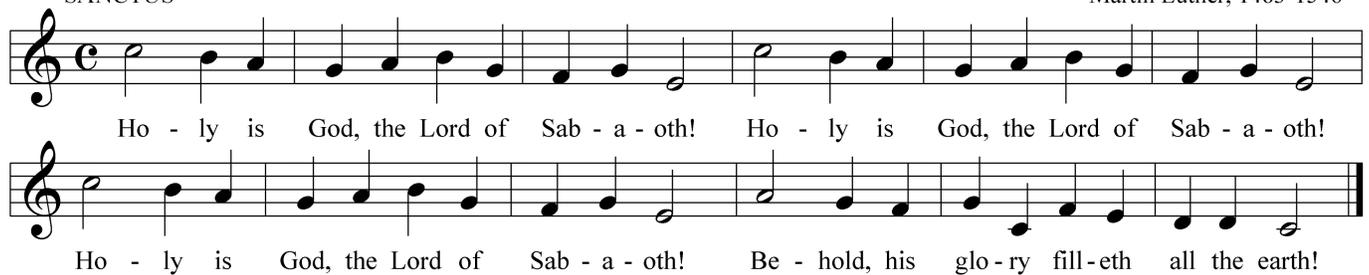
Minister: Let us give thanks to our Lord God!

People: **It is good and right to do so!**

Minister: It is very good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming him the Messiah, the very Lamb of God, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when he comes again in glory. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

SANCTUS

Martin Luther, 1483-1546



Ho - ly is God, the Lord of Sab - a - oth! Ho - ly is God, the Lord of Sab - a - oth!
Ho - ly is God, the Lord of Sab - a - oth! Be - hold, his glo - ry fill - eth all the earth!

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD – The Bread

The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (1 Cor. 11:23-24)

Johann Heermann, 1630

Johann Crüger, 1640



1. Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed,
2. *Who was the guilt - y who brought this up - on thee?*
3. Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered;
4. *For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion,*
5. There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee,



that man to judge thee hath in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de -
A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord
the slave hath sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered: for man's a -
thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion: thy death of
I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy



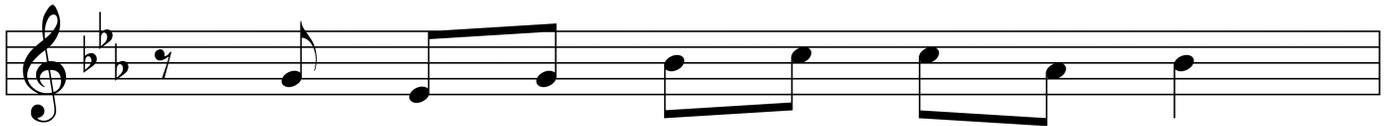
rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee: I cru - ci - fied thee.
tone - ment, while he noth - ing heed - eth, God in - ter - ced - eth.
an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD – The Cup

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” (1 Cor. 11:25)

Latin hymn, 9th cent.

Sarum plainsong, 13th cent.



1. O Lord of light, who made the stars,
 2. *In* low - li - ness you came on earth
 3. To pay the debt we owed for sin,
 4. *But* now you reign, the King of kings,
 5. Great judge of all, on earth's last day
 6. To God the Fa - ther and the Son



O Dawn, by whom we see the way,
to res - cue us from Sa - tan's snares;
 your pain - ful cross was made the price;
a - dored in high - est maj - es - ty;
 have pit - y on your chil - dren's plight;
 and Ho - ly Spir - it, Three in One,



O Christ, re - deem - er of the world:
O won - drous love that healed our wounds
 from bless - ed Mar - y's womb you came,
 your ver - y name is held in awe
 rise up to shield us with your grace;
praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



come now and lis - ten as we pray!
 by tak - ing on our mor - tal cares!
 a vic - tim pure for sac - ri - fice.
from pole to pole and sea to sea!
 de - li - ver us from Sa - tan's might.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ DEPARTING HYMN

Magnificat

Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955

Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556-c. 1622



1. My soul re - joic - es, my spir - it voic - es— Sing the
 2. His arm now bar - ing, his strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior has shown me
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud he scat - ters, their rule he



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bless - ing, join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly might - y and
 halt - ed; the meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
 wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly shall rest se - cure - ly on all who fear him, love and re -
 to - ken all that was spo - ken to A - br'ham's off - spring God is ful -



vere him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
 fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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An elder will be available at the front of the sanctuary immediately after the service concludes to pray with you and help answer questions you may have about the Christian faith or Redeemer Presbyterian Church.

LESSONS

Psalm 146

Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,
for there is no help in them.

When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;

The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The LORD shall reign for ever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5:7-11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Sermon Lesson – Matthew 11:2-15

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”