

THE DIVINE SERVICE

December 22, 2019

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

In Preparation



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

PRELUDE

Michael Phillips

Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733 – J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden:
 for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.
He hath shewed strength with his arm;
 he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.
He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;
As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

(Luke 1:46-55)

WORDS OF PREPARATION

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come among us with great might; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; 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.

Those who then are loyal find a welcome royal.
Come, then, O Lord Jesus, from our sins release us;
Let us here confess you till in heaven we bless you. (Michael Weisse)

❖ HYMN OF INVOCATION

Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413

Latin 12th-15th cent.



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2. *O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of grace,*
3. This is he whom heav'n-taught sing - ers sang of old with one ac - cord,
4. *O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;*
5. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the Source, the End - ing he,
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race;
whom the Scrip - tures of the proph - ets prom - ised in their faith - ful word;
all do - min - ions, bow be - fore him and ex - tol our God and King;
hymn, and chant, and high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wear - ied prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - - - - er,
now he shines, the long - ex - pect - - - - ed;
let no tongue on earth be si - - - - lent,
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - - - - ion,



and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
first re - vealed his sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
let cre - a - tion praise its Lord, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

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

Liber Usualis

Thomas Tallis

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on
 us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Minister: Hear what our Lord says, “The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

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

Gloria in Excelsis

Nicolas Decius

Glo - ry be to God on high! And on earth peace, good will t'ward men. We praise thee,
 we bless thee, we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give thanks to thee
 for thy great glo - ry, O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - might - y.

The Service of the Word

❖ THE PSALTER

Psalm 24

Georg Weissel, 1642

Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2. A help - er just he comes to thee, his char - iot
 3. O blest the land, the ci - ty blest, where Christ the
 4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 King of glo - ry - waits; the King of kings is
 is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is
 Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.
 hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with pray'r and love and joy.

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide
 My heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
 Let me thy inner presence feel;
 Thy grace and love in me reveal.

6. So come, my Sov'reign, enter in!
 Let new and nobler life begin!
 Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
 Until the glorious crown be won.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-17

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE FIRST GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1:18-21

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

CHORAL ANTHEM

There Is No Rose – John Joubert (1927-2019)

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space:
Res miranda. (Wondrous thing.)

By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three:
Pares forma. (Equal in form.)

Then leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyous birth:
Transeamus. (Let us go.)

(15th Century Carol)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to you, O Christ.

❖ OUR RESPONSE

Phillips Brooks, 1868

Traditional English melody



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n;
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 so God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n!
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

WELCOME

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

INTERLUDE

PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION AND THANKSGIVING

Ruling Elder Bret Mercer

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 EPISTLE LESSON**

Romans 1:1-7

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

❖ **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

MORNING SERMON

Rev. Bryce Waller

The Obedience of Faith
Romans 1:1-7

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

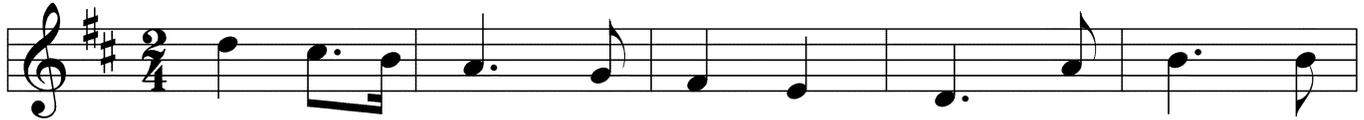
Minister: The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof;

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

HYMN OF GRATITUDE TO GOD

Psalm 98, Isaac Watts, 1719

George Frideric Handel, 1742



1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re -
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King: let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

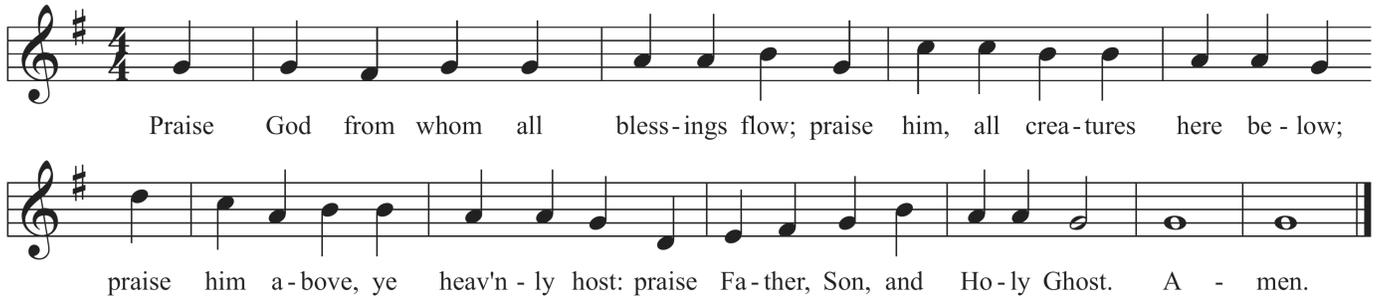


sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

- ❖ 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!**

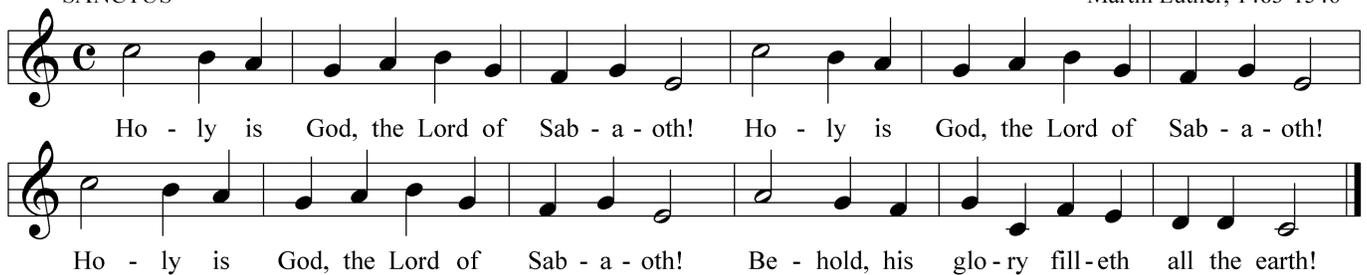
Minister: Let us give thanks to our Lord God!

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)

Paul Gerhardt, 1653

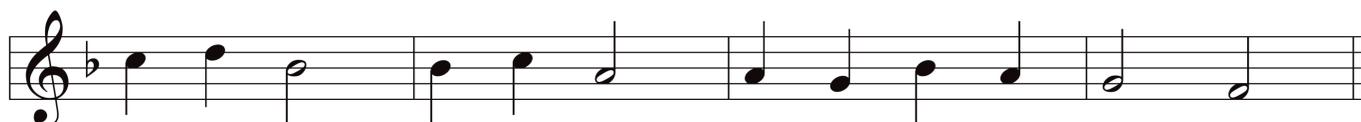
Johann G. Ebeling, 1666



1. All my heart this night re - joic - es as I hear far and near
2. *Forth to - day the Con - qu'ror go - eth, who the foe, sin and woe,*
3. Shall we still dread God's dis - plea - sure, who to save, free - ly gave
4. *He be - comes the Lamb that tak - eth sin a - way and for aye*
5. Hark! a voice from yon - der man - ger, soft and sweet, doth en - treat:



sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born," their choirs are sing - ing
death and hell, o'er - throw-eth. God is man, man to de - liv - er;
his most cher - ished Treas - ure? To re - deem us, he hath giv - en
full a - tone - ment mak - eth. For our life his own he ten - ders;
"Flee from woe and dan - ger. Breth - ren, from all ills that grieve you,



till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
his dear Son now is one with our blood for - ev - er.
his own Son from the throne of his might in heav - en.
and our race, by his grace, meet for glo - ry ren - ders.
you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."

6. Come, then, banish all your sadness,
One and all, great and small;
Come with songs of gladness.
Love him who with love is glowing;
Hail the star, near and far
Light and joy bestowing.

7. Dearest Lord, thee will I cherish.
Though my breath fail in death,
Yet I shall not perish,
But with thee abide forever
There on high, in that joy
Which can vanish never.

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)

Samuel Scheidt, 1650

Samuel Scheidt, 1650



1. O lit - tle one sweet, O lit - tle one mild, thy
 2. O lit - tle one sweet, O lit - tle one mild, with
 3. O lit - tle one sweet, O lit - tle one mild, in
 4. O lit - tle one sweet, O lit - tle one mild, help



Fa - ther's pur - pose thou hast ful - filled; thou cam'st from
 joy thou hast the whole world filled; thou cam - est
 thee love's beau - ties are all dis - tilled; then light in
 us to do as thou hast willed. Lo, all we



heav'n to mor - tal kin, e - qual to be with
 here from heav'n's do - main, to bring men com - fort
 us thy love's bright flame, that we may give thee
 have be - longs to thee! Ah, keep us in our



us poor men, O lit - tle one sweet, O lit - tle one mild.
 in their pain, O lit - tle one sweet, O lit - tle one mild.
 back the same, O lit - tle one sweet, O lit - tle one mild.
 fe - al - ty! O lit - tle one sweet, O lit - tle one mild.

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❖ 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 24

The earth is the LORD'S and all that is in it,
the world and all who dwell therein.
For it is he who founded it upon the seas
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
“Who can ascend the hill of the LORD?
and who can stand in his holy place?”
“Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what is a fraud.
They shall receive a blessing from the Lord
and a just reward from the God of their salvation.”
Such is the generation of those who seek him,
of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
“Who is this King of glory?”
“The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.”
Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
“Who is he, this King of glory?”
“The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.”

Isaiah 7:10-17

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Sermon Lesson – Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.