

THE DIVINE SERVICE

December 31, 2023

The First Sunday after Christmas

In Preparation



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

PRELUDE

Michael Phillips

Partita on "Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele" – Georg Böhm (1661-1733)

"Comfort, comfort these my people, speak of peace!" so says our God.
Comfort these who sit in darkness groaning under sin's dread rod.
"To my people I proclaim pardon now in Jesus' name.
Tell them that their sins I cover, that their warfare now is over!"

WORDS OF PREPARATION

Luke 2:8-20

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Direct us, O Lord, in all our actions by your gracious favor, and further us with your continual help that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in your name, we may glorify your holy name and finally by your mercy receive eternal life; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Service of Entrance



CHORAL INTROIT

Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty – DONA NOBIS PACEM

❖ ENTRANCE CAROL

Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753

MENDELSSOHN

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!



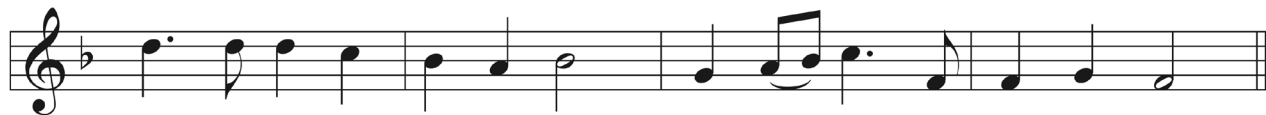
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

- Minister: To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder.
People: **And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**
Minister: Sing to the LORD a new song,
People: **For he has done marvelous things!**
Minister: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
People: **Amen.**
Minister: Let us pray.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

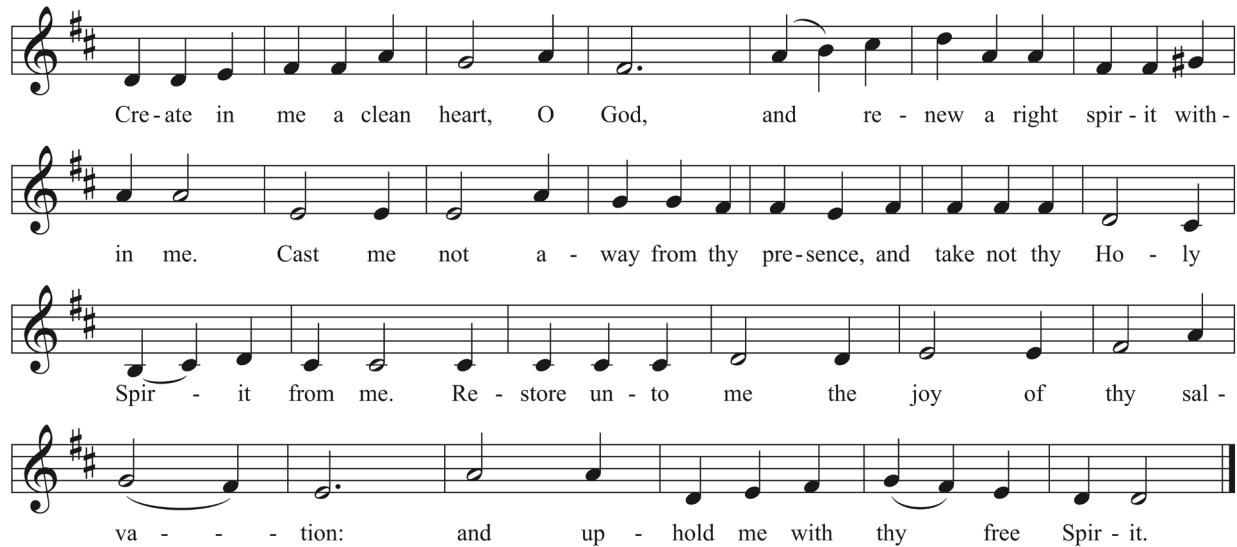
... world without end. **Amen.**

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Psalm 51:10-12

FREYLINGHAUSEN

Johann A. Freylinghausen



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Cast me not a - way from thy pre - sence, and take not thy Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of thy sal -
va - - - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

From The Lutheran Hymnal © 1941 Concordia Publishing House
Used with permission.

Minister: Hear what the LORD our God says, “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain. Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet.”

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

2nd cent.

GLORIA PATRI

Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.

❖ CAROL FOR CONGREGATION

James Montgomery, 1771-1854

REGENT SQUARE

Henry Smart, 1813-1879

1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2. *Shep-herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your*
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions
4. *Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in*
5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,
all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth. Come and wor - ship,
yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
ye have seen his na - tal star.
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.
to th'e - ter - nal Three in One.
come and wor - ship; wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

The Service of the Word

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 62:10-12

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

❖ CAROL FOR CONGREGATION

Martin Luther, 1535

VOM HIMMEL HOCH

Martin Luther, 1539



1. From heav'n a - bove to earth I come
 2. *To you this night is born a child*
 3. This is the Christ, our God and Lord,
 4. *These are the tokens with ye shall mark:*
 5. Now let us all with glad - some cheer



to bring good news to ev - 'ry - one!
of Mar - y, chos - en vir - gin mild;
 who in all need shall aid af - ford;
the swad - dling clothes and man - ger dark;
 go with the shep - herds and draw near



Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring
this lit - tle child, of low - ly birth,
 he will him - self your Sav - ior be
there ye shall find the in - fant laid
 to see the pre - cious Gift of God,



to all the world and glad - ly sing:
shall be the joy of all the earth.
 from all your sins to set you free.
by whom the heav'ns and earth were made.
 who hath his own dear Son be - stowed.

6. Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes!
 What is it in yon manger lies?
 Who is this child, so young and fair?
 The blessed Christ-child lieth there.

7. Welcome to earth, thou noble Guest,
 Through whom the sinful world is blest!
 Thou com'st to share my misery;
 What thanks shall I return to thee?

8. Ah, Lord, who hast created all,
 How weak art thou, how poor and small,
 That thou dost choose thine infant bed
 Where humble cattle lately fed!

9. Glory to God in highest heav'n,
 Who unto us his Son hath giv'n!
 While angels sing with pious mirth
 A glad new year to all the earth!

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Titus 3:4-7

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

CAROL FOR CHOIR

A Virgin Unspotted – William Billings (1746-1800)

A virgin unspotted by Prophet foretold,
Should bring forth a Savior which now we behold,
To be our Redeemer from Death, Hell, and Sin,
Which Adam's transgressions involved us in.

*Then, let us be merry, put sorrow away,
Our Savior, Christ Jesus, was born on this day.*

God sent down an angel from heaven so high,
To certain poor shepherds in fields as they lie,
And made them no longer in sorrow to stay,
Because that our Savior was born on this day.

Then, presently after, the shepherds did spy
A number of angels that stood in the sky;
They joyfully talked and sweetly did sing
“To God be all glory, our Heavenly King!”

To teach us humility all this was done,
To learn us from hence haughty pride for to shun.
The manger his cradle who came from above,
The great God of mercy, of peace and of love.

(Traditional English)

THE FIRST GOSPEL LESSON


Luke 2:8-14

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.


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

❖ CAROL FOR CONGREGATION


Traditional French carol	GLORIA	Traditional French melody
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1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

THE SECOND GOSPEL LESSON


Luke 2:15-20

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.


People: Praise be to you, O Christ!

❖ CAROL FOR CONGREGATION


German carol	JUNGST	Traditional German melody
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1. While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tid - ings
 2. There shall be born, so he did say, in Beth - le -
 3. There shall the child lie in a stall, this child who
 4. This gift of God we'll cher - ish well, that ev - er



brought an an - gel bright. (Echo)
 hem a child to - day. How great our joy! Great our joy!
 shall re - deem us all.
 joy our hearts shall fill.



Joy, joy, joy! (Echo) Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in



heav'n on high! (Echo) Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

WELCOME

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

INTERLUDE

PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION AND THANKSGIVING

Deacon Ben Haguewood

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 PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 98

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

❖ PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MORNING SERMON

Rev. Danny Morgan

Return of the King

Psalm 98

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 at 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.**

CAROL FOR CONGREGATION

English carol, 18th cent.

GOD REST YOU MERRY

English melody, 18th cent.



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther, a bless - ed an - gel came;
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;
4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and with true love and bro - ther - hood each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray;
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas all o - thers doth de - face:



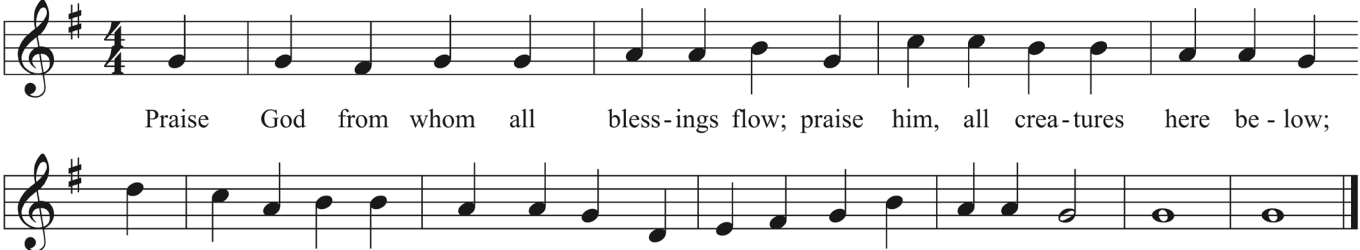
O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

- ❖ 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 TALLIS CANON 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: Our gracious God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, giver of all good gifts, receive these offerings as our worship properly given to you for the glory due your name. Use them to strengthen your church, expand your kingdom, and show mercy to our neighbors. In the name of your Son we pray.

People: Amen.

❖ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Minister: The Lord be with you!

People: **And also with you!**

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

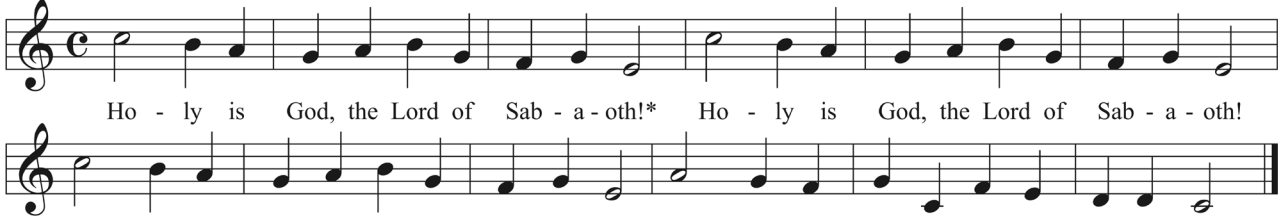
People: **We lift them up to the Lord!**

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, for in the mystery of the Word made flesh you have given us a new revelation of your glory that, seeing you in the person of your Son, we may be drawn to the love of those things which are not seen. 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 JESAIA DEM PROPHETEN 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!

* One of the many biblical names for God; in this case the Lord God of hosts or angelic armies.
Pronounced "Sah-bah-oat"

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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)

German hymn, c. 1500 ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN Michael Praetorius, 1609

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der
2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I
3. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness
4. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our

stem hath sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing,
have in mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it,
fills the air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor
hu - man woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry,

as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright,
the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right
the dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God;
who dost our weak - ness know, bring us at length, we pray,

a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
she bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
from sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
to the bright courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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)

Nahum Tate, 1652-1715

WINCHESTER OLD

Este's Psalter, 1592



1. While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all
 2. "Fear not," said he (for might - y dread had
 3. "To you in Da - vid's town this day is
 4. "The heav'n - ly babe you there shall find to



seat - ed on the ground, the an - gel of the
 seized their trou - bled mind): "Glad tid - ings of great
 born of Da - vid's line a Sav - ior, who is
 hu - man view dis - played, all mean - ly wrapped in



Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
 joy I bring to you and all man - kind.
 Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
 swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."

5. Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith
 Appeared a shining throng
 Of angels praising God, who thus
 Addressed their joyful song:

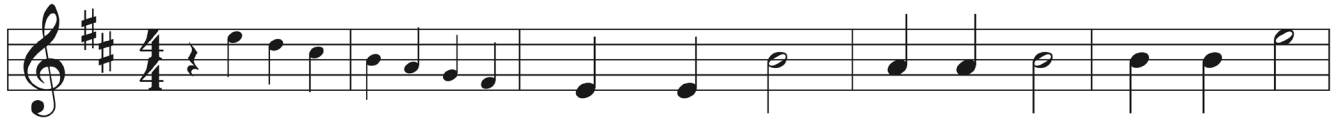
6. "All glory be to God on high,
 And on the earth be peace;
 Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men
 Begin and never cease."

❖ BENEDICTION

❖ DEPARTING HYMN

Piae Cantiones, 1582

PERSONENT HODIE

Piae Cantiones, 1582

1. On this day earth shall ring with the song
 2. His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came
 3. God's bright star o'er his head, wise men three
 4. On this day an - gels sing; with their song



chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to
 down to earth, Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be -
 to him led; kneel they low to his bed, lay their gifts be -
 earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, Heav - en's king, born on earth to



save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.
 side him from the cold would hide him. I - de - o - o - o,
 fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
 save us; peace and love he gave us.



I - de - o - o - o, I - de - o, glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

LESSONS

Isaiah 62:10-12

Go through, go through the gates;
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway;
clear it of stones;
lift up a signal over the peoples.
Behold, the Lord has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to the daughter of Zion,
“Behold, your salvation comes;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.”
And they shall be called The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord;
and you shall be called Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.

Titus 3:4-7

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Luke 2:8-14

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:15-20

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Sermon Lesson—Psalm 98

¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

²The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

⁵Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

⁸Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together

⁹before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.