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St. Luke’s Gondola Point

Morning Prayer Service

Advent IV - December 20, 2020

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” *John 8.12*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

[**Video can be found on our St. Luke’s Website Blog.**]

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LOVE**

**Child:** Today we light the fourth candle of our Advent Wreath, the candle reminding us of God’s gift of love. Before we do that, let us remember the gifts of God symbolized by the other candles in the wreath: the light of hope, the light of peace, and the light of joy. (*Child light again the first three candles.*) The fourth candle helps us to remember that God is love. (*Child lights the fourth candle*).

**Adult:** The Bible tells us that it is because God loved the world so much that Jesus came. Mary sings her song in praise of God’s love and goodness. Because God loves us, we must love and care for others. Jesus came to show us how to love.

**Child:** We are Jesus’ disciples in the world today. Jesus wants us to love others as he loves us. This candle reminds us that God loves us, and that we must share that love by loving one another.

**Congregation:**  God, thank you for loving us, and for sending Jesus to teach us about your love. Help us to remember that love will never come to an end. Strengthen us to love others as you love us. Amen.

Opening Hymn: *Hope Is A Star (Verse Four)*

**MORNING PRAYER**

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

**Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Will you not give us life again,

**That your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your mercy, O Lord,

**And grant us your salvation.**

Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

The kingdom of God is at hand: **O come, let us worship.**

***Jubilate*** *Psalm 100*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*

**serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.**

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*

**he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \*

**give thanks to him and call upon his name.**

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \*

**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

The kingdom of God is at hand: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A Reading from 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16.

*Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 2the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” 3Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”*

*4But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 5Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 6I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. 7Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” 8Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; 9and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.*

*Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.*

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, \*

**for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.**

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; \*

**for the Mighty One has done great things for me,**

**and holy is his name.**

His mercy is for those who fear him \*

**from generation to generation.**

He has shown strength with his arm; \*

**he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, \*

**and lifted up the lowly;**

he has filled the hungry with good things, \*

**and sent the rich away empty.**

He has helped his servant Israel, \*

**in remembrance of his mercy,**

according to the promise he made to our ancestors, \*

**to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

A Reading from Romans 16:25–27.

*25Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— 27to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.*

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 18c ***The Song of Simeon*** *Luke 2.29–32*

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; \*

**your word has been fulfilled.**

My own eyes have seen the salvation \*

**which you have prepared in the sight of every people;**

a light to reveal you to the nations \*

**and the glory of your people Israel.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Hymn: *Live In Charity* (CP# 553)

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke (1:26–38).

**Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 35The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. 37For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.*

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

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

**INTERCESSIONS**

*In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, “Lord Jesus, come soon!”*

*O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.* ***Lord Jesus, come soon!***

*O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us.*

***Lord Jesus, come soon!***

*O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more.* ***Lord Jesus, come soon!***

*O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.* ***Lord Jesus, come soon!***

*O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.*

***Lord Jesus, come soon!***

*O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay.*

***Lord Jesus, come soon!***

*O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God.*

***Lord Jesus, come soon!***

*Hear and answer our prayers, O Lord; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, according to your will, and your grace.*

[***Take a moment of silence to offer up prayers and thanksgivings, for yourself and others. Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin.***]

*Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people; you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.* ***Amen****.*

Collect

*Heavenly Father,*

*who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour,*

*now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* ***Amen.***

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *Your Love O Lord*

Dismissal

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**