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St. Luke’s Gondola Point

Morning Prayer Service

Advent III - December 13, 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.**]

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: JOY**

(*Light again the first two candles*)

**Child:** We have lit again the two candles in our Advent wreath, to remind us of God’s gifts of hope and peace. Today we will light the third candle, the one representing joy.

**Adult:** We look forward with joy as we wait for Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ, and all that His presence means for us and our world. The prophet Zephaniah calls us to shout for joy, because God will gather together all people and renew them in love. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the angel told the shepherds not to be afraid. The angel brought “good news of great joy, which shall be to all people.” The good news of Jesus’ birth and the promise of Shalom are still “tidings of great joy” for us today.

**Child:** Paul reminds Christians, ‘Rejoice in God always.” The third candle reminds us of our joy in Jesus Christ. (*Light the third candle.*)

**Congregation:**  Thank you, God, for your promise of joy. Help us to recognize the moments of joy in our lives, and to live joyfully, so that others may come to be filled with the joy that comes from knowing Jesus Christ. Amen.

(From the Candlelighting Liturgy to Accompany the Advent Wreath booklet, by *The Whole People of God.* Altered.)

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

**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 Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11.

*The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,*

*because the Lord has anointed me;*

*he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,*

*to bind up the brokenhearted,*

*to proclaim liberty to the captives,*

*and release to the prisoners;*

*2 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor,*

*and the day of vengeance of our God;*

*to comfort all who mourn;*

*3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion—*

*to give them a garland instead of ashes,*

*the oil of gladness instead of mourning,*

*the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.*

*They will be called oaks of righteousness,*

*the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.*

*4 They shall build up the ancient ruins,*

*they shall raise up the former devastations;*

*they shall repair the ruined cities,*

*the devastations of many generations.*

*For I the Lord love justice,*

*I hate robbery and wrongdoing;*

*I will faithfully give them their recompense,*

*and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.*

*9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations,*

*and their offspring among the peoples;*

*all who see them shall acknowledge*

*that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.*

*10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,*

*my whole being shall exult in my God;*

*for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,*

*he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,*

*as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,*

*and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

*11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,*

*and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,*

*so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise*

*to spring up before all the nations.*

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

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*

**then were we like those who dream.**

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*

**and our tongue with shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations, \*

**“The Lord has done great things for them.”**

The Lord has done great things for us, \*

**and we are glad indeed.**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*

**like the watercourses of the Negev.**

Those who sowed with tears \*

**will reap with songs of joy.**

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*

**will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

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 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24.

*16Rejoice always, 17pray without ceasing, 18give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19Do not quench the Spirit. 20Do not despise the words of prophets, 21but test everything; hold fast to what is good; 22abstain from every form of evil.*

*23May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.*

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

Canticle 18c *The Song of Mary Luke 1:46-55*

*My soul gives glory to the Lord,*

***in God my Saviour I rejoice.***

*My lowliness he did regard,*

***exalting me by his own choice.***

*From this day all shall call me blest,*

***for he has done great things for me.***

*Of all great names his is the best.*

***For it is holy; strong is he!***

*His mercy goes to all who fear*

*f****rom age to age and to all parts.***

*His arm of strength to all is near;*

***he scatters those who have proud hearts.***

*He casts the mighty from their throne*

***and raises those of low degree;***

*he feeds the hungry as his own,*

***the rich depart in poverty.***

*He raised his servant, Israel,*

***rememb’ring his eternal grace.***

*As from of old he did foretell*

***to Abraham and to his race.***

*O Father, Son, and Spirit blest,*

***in three-fold name are you adored;***

*to you be ev’ry prayer addressed,*

***from age to age the only Lord.***

Hymn: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* (CP #425)

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

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John (1:6-8, 19-28). **Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.*

*19This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” 20He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” 21And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” 22Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” 23He said,*

*“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,*

*‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ”*

*as the prophet Isaiah said.*

*24Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” 26John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” 28This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.*

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

Sermon

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

*God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son.*

*Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him 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: *Joy To The World* (CP #154)

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.**