

The Lord's Day
All Saints Parish Church
December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

Meditations for Worship

Be strong and let your heart take courage,
all you who hope in the LORD.
(Ps. 31:24)

It was a mark of humiliation put upon the Lord Jesus that, though He was the Desire of all nations, yet His coming into the world was little observed and taken notice of, His birth was obscure and unregarded: herein He emptied Himself, and made Himself of no reputation.

Matthew Henry, Commentary on Matthew 2

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Matt. 2:1-11

*Call to Worship

Ps. 96:1-3

Sing to the LORD a new song;
Sing to the LORD, all the earth.
Sing to the LORD, bless His name;
Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.
Tell of His glory among the nations,
His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.

*Prayer of Invocation

*Hymns **Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** No. 292
Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come No. 299

Public Confession

Our Father, we praise You for Your compassion and for Your wisdom by which You ordained our redemption. We confess our sins with remorse, but also in hope because of the atonement accomplished by Your Son. For His sake, therefore, please forgive our transgressions against one another and also against You.

Words of Assurance

Ps. 34:6-8

This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. O taste and see that the LORD is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

Response

Beautiful Savior

You are fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips;
therefore God has blessed You forever. Ps. 45:2

1. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King_ of Cre - a - tion,
2. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord_ of the na - tions,

Son of_ God and_ Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love_ Thee,
Son of_ God and_ Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,

Tru - ly I'd serve Thee, Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.
Praise, ad - o - ra - tion, Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Anonymous, 1677
Tr. by Joseph A. Seiss, 1873

CRUSADER'S HYMN 5.6.8.5.5.8
Silesian folk song
Schlesische Volkslieder, Leipzig, 1842

Prayer and Collection of the Tithe and Offerings

*Doxology No. 567

*Old Testament Reading **Sayings of the Wise** Prov. 29:16-27

*Response to the Word

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

Amen!

Prayers of the People

*Reading: The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come 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.**

*Hymn **Once in Royal David's City** No. 322

*New Testament Reading **Jesus Predicts His Death** John 13:21-38

*Response to the Word

The Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God!

*Prayer for the Ministry of the Word

Sermon **Perspectives on the Incarnation: Herod** Matt. 2:1-20

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*Hymn **As with Gladness Men of Old** No. 320

*Benediction

* Congregation will please stand

The Glory of Christ

By beholding the glory of Christ by faith we shall find rest to our souls. Our minds are apt to be filled with troubles, fears, cares, dangers, distresses, ungoverned passion, and lusts. By these our thoughts are filled with chaos, darkness, and confusion. But where the soul is fixed on the glory of Christ then the mind finds rest and peace for "to be spiritually minded is peace" (Rom. 8:6).

John Owen

The Use of Wine in the Observance of the Lord's Supper

In light of the biblical account of the Last Supper and Jesus' use of wine in representing His blood, All Saints Parish Church believes that the use of wine in the observance of the Lord's Supper remains the proper symbol for representing His blood. We do, however, make occasional exceptions for the use of grape juice, with the hope that those holding such an exception will seek to understand the conviction of the church in this matter. Please speak to one of the elders if you wish to discuss this issue.

A community of Christ-worshippers

Elders

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SOLA FIDE

SOLA SCRIPTURA

SOLA GRATIA

SOLO CHRISTO