

The Lord's Day
All Saints Parish Church
December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Meditations for Worship

**How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered!**
(Ps. 32:1)

The entrance of Jesus into this world is against the backdrop of humiliation. There was no place for Him to lay His head. In fact, as an adult, He would say, "The Son of Man has no place to lay His head" (Luke 9:58). He never had a place to lay His head that wasn't borrowed from someone else.

R.C. Sproul, Sermon on The Birth of Christ

Lighting of the Advent Candle

John 1:1-14

*Call to Worship

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
Ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
Ascribe to the LORD the glory of His name;
Bring an offering and come into His courts.
Worship the LORD in holy attire;
Tremble before Him, all the earth.

Ps. 96:7-9

*Prayer of Invocation

*Hymns **Hark! the Herald Angels Sing** No. 311
Angels We Have Heard on High No. 318

Public Confession

For Your glory, O LORD, we confess that we have sinned in mind and tongue. We confess that we have sinned in withholding what has been so freely and abundantly given to us. By Your grace, grant us true repentance and a restored joy in Christ our Savior.

Words of Assurance

Ps. 34:22

The LORD redeems the soul of His servants, and none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.

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. 30:1-19

*Response to the Word

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

Amen!

Prayers of the People

*Responsive Reading: Westminster Larger Catechism

Q. 36. Who is the Mediator of the covenant of grace?
A. The only Mediator of the covenant of grace is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, of one substance and equal with the Father, in the fullness of time became man, and so was and continues to be God and man, in two entire distinct natures, and one person, forever.

Q. 37. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?
A. Christ the Son of God became man, by taking to himself a true body, and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance, and born of her, yet without sin.

Q. 38. Why was it necessary that the Mediator should be God?
A. It was necessary that the Mediator should be God, that he might sustain and keep the human nature from sinking under the infinite wrath of God, and the power of death; give worth and efficacy to his sufferings, obedience, and intercession; and to satisfy God's justice, procure his favor, purchase a peculiar people, give his Spirit to them, conquer all their enemies, and bring them to everlasting salvation.

*Hymn **Good Christian Men, Rejoice** No. 308

*New Testament Reading **Jesus the Way to the Father** John 14:1-19

*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: The Shepherds** Luke 2

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

*Hymn **O Come, All Ye Faithful** No. 319

*Benediction

* Congregation will please stand

SOLI DEO GLORIA

On the Incarnation

It was great condescension that He who was God should be made in the likeness of flesh; but much greater that He who was holy should be made in the likeness of sinful flesh.

Matthew Henry

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.

All Saints

A community of Christ-worshippers

Elders

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SOLA FIDE SOLA SCRIPTURA SOLA GRATIA

SOLO CHRISTO