

Sunday, December 2, 2018
First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Edward Broughton

***GATHERING SONG**

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

***LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

☞ *We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown*

☞ that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the first candle on this wreath,
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
when he comes with all the saints and angels.

Enlighten us with your grace,
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.

Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen!

Kindle this flame of hope.
May it burn bright and true.
Lighting the way that is of God,
the journey we pursue.

God's realm is our desire,
where peace and justice reign.
Heaven and earth combined as one,
when Christ shall come again.

***GREETING**

P *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

G **And also with you.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 1

ELW 257

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P *Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.*

G **By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!**

ANTHEM

“Lift Up Your Heads”
Chancel Choir

arr. Wesley Anderson

TRIPLE T GROWTH MOMENT

“Time”

Marla Heeler

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Reflection

What is God’s promise? (verse 14) What is the hoped for coming? (verse 15) What do you think it means that “the righteous Branch” will make sure that there is justice and righteousness in the land? What will happen with Judah and Jerusalem? (verse 16) What do you think it means that Jerusalem will be called “The Lord is our righteousness”? Is this promise only for Jerusalem (as important as that is), or does it also apply to our land? What do you think that would look like? How does this text bring you hope?

PSALM 25: 1-10

¹To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O
LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

Reflection

For what is the psalmist praying? (verses 1-2) Who instead should be put to shame? (verse 3) Do you think it is right to pray for someone (even someone who is treacherous) to be put to shame? Why would the psalmist (and we who are reading this psalm) not be put to shame? (verses 4-5) The psalmist asks the Lord not to remember "the sins of my youth." What does the psalmist want the Lord to remember? Why? (verses 6-7) What does the Lord teach us? (verses 8-9) What is the path that we will walk in faith? (verse 10) How does this psalm bring you hope?

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Reflection

Paul gives thanks for the congregation at Thessalonika. Why? (verse 9) What is Paul's earnest prayer for the believers there? (verse 10) What does Paul want for himself? (verse 11) How will Paul (and others) know about their love for Christ? (verse 12) What does Paul hope for the believers there? (verse 13) Imagine that Paul is writing to our congregation. What hope do you take from this text?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

"With a Voice of Singing"

**With a voice of singing
declare ye this, and let it be heard,
alleluia.**

***GOSPEL**

Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Reflection

What are the signs that Luke records Jesus warning the disciples about? (verses 25-26) In some ways, this passage reminds me of the warnings we hear about climate change from scientists. What is the reaction of people to these warnings? (denial, fear, foreboding, being shaken...) How would you react to these things if and when you see them happening? What does Jesus say they are a sign of? (verse 27) How does he want us believers to react? (verse 28) What is the parable he tells? (verses 29-30) Why should believers not cower in fear, but raise their heads? (verse 31) What do you make of Jesus saying that "this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place"? (verse 32) What does it mean that "the kingdom of God is near" and that "my words will not pass away"? (verse 33) What does Jesus warn against? (verse 34) Will anyone escape? (verses 35-36) How can this text bring hope?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

"Hope"

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

"Shine, Jesus, Shine"

ELW 671

Refrain

Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land
With the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations
With grace and mercy
Send forth Your word Lord
And let there be light

Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me shine on me *Refrain*

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me shine on me *Refrain*

***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will 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!**

***PRAYER SONG**

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in His wonderful face;
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Equip your church, merciful God. Secure our roots in the soil of your eternal word. Ease our worries and remove our shame. Grow our faithfulness and let your steadfast love blossom among us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sustain your creation, holy God. Water the parched soil. Restore depleted fields. Send farmers, forest rangers, and gardeners to care for fig trees and wheat fields, gardens and arboretums. Increase our love for the land. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grow peace within us, abundant God. Raise up leaders in every community grounded in your justice and mercy. Increase their love for all people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Feed the hungry, living God. Gather our harvest into a feast for our neighbors. Move us to nurture those who are bereaved and lonely. Empower those living with HIV/AIDS and all others who are sick *especially Elaine, Jim, Lisa and her baby Lara, Dorothy*, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Increase our joy, wondrous God. Plant thanksgiving in our hearts and multiply the good fruit of our outreach ministries and creation care programs (*especially*). Guide us in our service to local and global neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and now rest in your glory. Hold all who mourn in the comfort of your eternal light, and bring us to delight in the new life you promise. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

G **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

"People, Look East"

ELW 248

**People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.**

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *the fourth verse*

**Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *God of abundance,*

G **we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.
Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your
Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

***DIALOGUE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Steve Eulberg

**Holy Holy
Holy is the One, who Is,
Was, and Is To Come
Blessed is the One who comes
In the name of God!
Blessed is the One who comes
In the name of God!
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna sanna sann!
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna sanna sann!
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna sanna sann!
Hosanna
Hosanna
Hosanna
Hosanna
Holy Holy
Holy is the One, who Is,
Was, and Is To Come**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.*

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P *With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.*

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P *Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.*

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P *All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.*

☞ Amen!

***LORD'S PRAYER**

ℙ *Gathered in hope as one, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

**☞ Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen!**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

ℙ *God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

***BLESSING**

ℙ *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

☞ Amen!

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

ℙ *Holy One,*

☞ we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen!

***BENEDICTION**

ℙ *May God direct your ways in peace,
make you abound in love for one another and for all,
and strengthen your hearts
until the coming of our Lord Jesus.
Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.*

☞ Amen!

***SENDING SONG**

"My Life is In You, Lord"

My life is in You Lord
My strength is in You Lord
My hope is in You Lord
In You it's in You
My life is in You Lord
My strength is in You Lord
My hope is in You Lord
In You it's in You *(repeat)*

I will praise You
With all of my life
I will praise You
With all of my strength
With all of my life
With all of my strength
All of my hope is in You

My life is in You Lord
My strength is in You Lord
My hope is in You Lord
In You it's in You
My life is in You Lord
My strength is in You Lord
My hope is in You Lord
In You it's in You *(repeat)*

Ending
In You

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God!