

Christ Church

Prelude

Moments of Concern

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Sue Nelson & Andrew Marconi

Call to Worship: *Psalm 119:159-160* – Consider how I love Your precepts; revive me, O Lord, according to Your lovingkindness. The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

Heidelberg Catechism: Lord's Day 49 (page 35)

Q. What does the third request mean?

A. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven means, Help us and all men to reject our own wills and to obey your will without any back talk. Your will alone is good. Help everyone carry out the work he is called to as willingly and faithfully as the angels in heaven.

***Hymn of Adoration:** 169 *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"*

***Collect of the Day (unison):** *(taken from the Old Palatinate Liturgy of 1563 of the German Reformed Church)* Eternal and Almighty God, we give You thanks, that in Your great love, You graciously had pity on us who were doomed to eternal death for our sins, and ordained Your only begotten Son, before the foundation of the world was laid, to be our Mediator, Atonement and Savior. You promised Him to our first parents in paradise after their deplorable fall, and at the appointed time sent Him into the world so He could assume our flesh and blood, becoming our Brother and like us in all ways except for sin. We praise You, that by His death He destroyed him who had the power of death, the Devil, and delivered us, who otherwise would have spent our whole lives in bondage to the fear of death, from the kingdom of Satan and darkness, and transferred us into the kingdom of light and eternal happiness. We pray in Jesus Name. Amen.

***Old Testament Lesson:** *Isaiah 49:7* – Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, to Him whom man despises, to Him whom the nation abhors, to the Servant of rulers: "Kings shall

see and arise, Princes also shall worship, because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel; and He has chosen You."

***Epistle Lesson:** *1 Thessalonians 5:23-28*

²³ Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

²⁴ He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.

²⁵ Brethren, pray for us.

²⁶ Greet all the brethren with a holy kiss.

²⁷ I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read to all the holy brethren.

²⁸ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

***Gospel Lesson:** *Luke 4:16-22*

¹⁶ So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed;

¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

²⁰ Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

²¹ And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

²² So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

Children's Sermon

Sermon: *1 Thessalonians 5:23-28*

***Hymn of Preparation:** *Psalm 24:1-10* (back of bulletin)

Reading of the Law: *Exodus 20:1-17* (page 68)

Call to Confession: *1 Corinthians 11:27-29* – Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.

Prayer of Confession: Father in heaven, forgive us for rebelling against

Your rule over us. We have failed to acknowledge that Your will alone is good. Instead, we have embraced foolishness in pursuit of our own desires, rejecting Your purpose for our lives. We have grumbled against Your rule over our lives when we have been disappointed or have simply ignored You. Have mercy on us and teach us true submission to our King and true longing for His glory. Send His Spirit to drive all rebellion from our hearts and open to us sweet communion with Him. We pray in Jesus’ Name. Amen.

Have Mercy:

Have mercy on us. Have mercy on us.

Oh Lord, have mercy. Oh Lord, have mercy.

Oh, help my unbelief. Oh, help my unbelief.

Oh Lord, have mercy. Oh Lord, have mercy.

Assurance of Pardon: *Isaiah 66:2b* – “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.”

C: Thanks be to God.

Gloria Patri: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Holy Communion

Prayers of the People

Lord’s Prayer (unison): Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

***Offertory Response:** Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Hymn of Response:** 168 “*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*”

***Benediction**