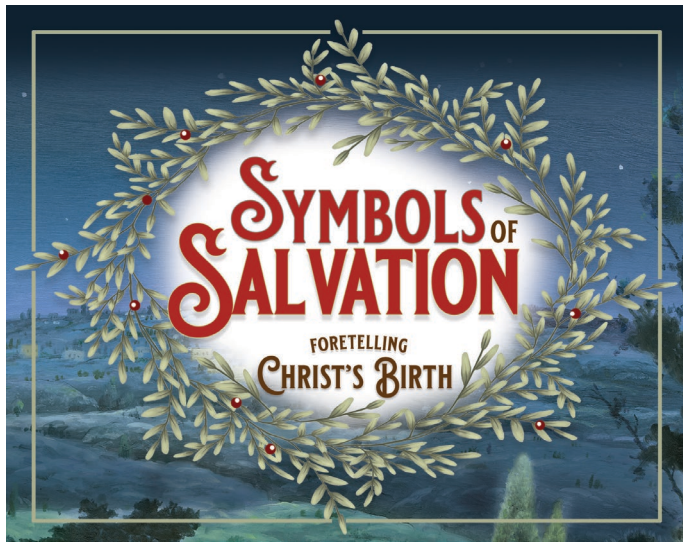


Zion Lutheran Church



December 1st, 2021
First Mid-Week Advent Service

OLD TESTAMENT CHRISTMAS

This is a time of year when we cherish moments with family and friends by taking photographs. We look back on these images to remember what took place, to fill us with joy when family and friends are absent, and to remind us of their love. Tonight, we begin an Advent series on images through which God addresses His people, calls them to joy in His promises, and reminds us of His unfailing love and presence. These are living pictures of God's gracious acts to redeem His people. Tonight, we look at the burning bush and the Lord's address to Moses. This picture is even more meaningful because it was the pre-incarnate Christ who stood before Moses and spoke through the burning bush, foreshadowing the incarnation itself, which is the focus of Christmas.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P O Lord, open my lips,

C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

C **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 forever. Amen.**

Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

+ PSALMODY +

Psalm

P Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

C **tell of all His wondrous works!**

P Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;

C **make known His deeds among the peoples!**

P Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

C **tell of all His wondrous works!**

P Glory in His holy name;

C let the hearts of those who seek the **LORD** rejoice!

P Seek the LORD and His strength;

C **seek His presence continually!**

P Remember the wondrous works that He has done,

C **His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,**

P O offspring of Abraham, His servant,

C **children of Jacob, His chosen ones!**

P Then Israel came to Egypt;

C **Jacob sojourned in the land of Ham.**

P And the LORD made His people very fruitful

C **and made them stronger than their foes.**

P He turned their hearts to hate His people

C **to deal craftily with His servants.**

P He sent Moses, His servant,

C **and Aaron, whom He had chosen.**

P So He brought His people out with joy,

C **His chosen ones with singing.**

P And He gave them the lands of the nations,

C **and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil,**

P that they might keep His statutes

C **and observe His laws.**

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 forever. Amen.

P Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;

C **tell of all His wondrous works!**

+ READINGS +

First Reading -- Exodus 3:1–14

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness

and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – John 8:48-59

The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory for Advent

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Sermon Hymn (7:00 PM only) – **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus** #338

Sermon

+ PRAYER +

Kyrie

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

C 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 and the power and the glory forever
and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Distribution

If you are visiting us today from a Christian denomination outside the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we welcome you to come to the altar to receive a baptismal blessing. Please signify by crossing your arms over your chest upon kneeling.

Collects

P O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

P O Almighty God, You are the great I AM who rescued Your people from their slavery in Egypt and redeemed us from our bondage to sin and its death by Your beloved Son. Grant that we may recognize Your presence, rejoice in Your saving gifts, and remember Your mercy in every time of trouble or sorrow; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for Peace

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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

C Amen.

Closing Hymn (7:00 PM only) -- **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #357**



Acknowledgments

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