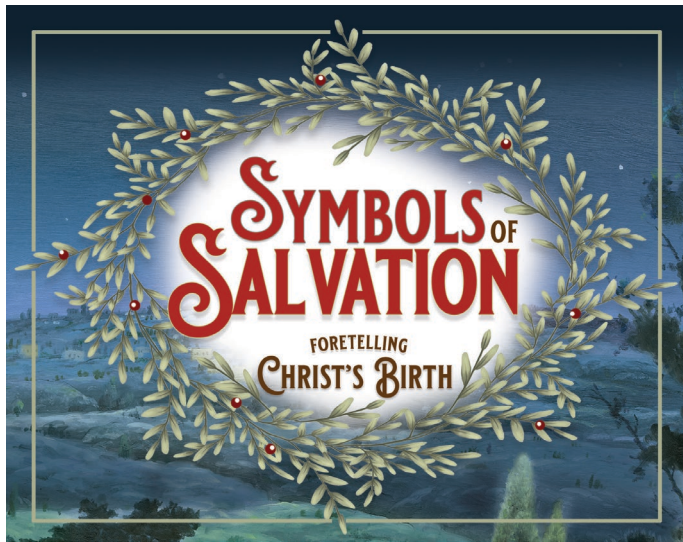


Zion Lutheran Church



December 15th, 2021
Third Mid-Week Advent Service

You Shall Defeat Them as One Man

God's power is a hidden image. He comes as man, born of woman, and yet He is the mighty Redeemer. He has no army, but His kingdom shall endure forever. He becomes the victim and offers Himself in sacrifice upon the cross, yet His triumph brings salvation to the whole world. We complain that we are alone, we have no might, and our enemies are great; but in Christ, we see that we are not alone, His power is beyond all power, and His might has done what is impossible for us. Now let us stand as one in Christ, clothed in the garments of righteousness He gives us in Baptism.

Opening Hymn (7:00 PM only) – **Let All Together Praise Our God** #389

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 Why are you cast down, O my soul,

C **and why are you in turmoil within me?**

P Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,

C **my salvation and my God.**

P As a deer pants for flowing streams,

C **so pants my soul for You, O God.**

P My soul thirsts for God,

C **for the living God.**

P When shall I come and appear before God?

C **My tears have been my food day and night,**

P while they say to me continually,

C **“Where is your God?”**

P These things I remember,

C **as I pour out my soul:**

P how I would go with the throng

C **and lead them in procession to the house of God**

P with glad shouts and songs of praise,

C **a multitude keeping festival.**

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 Why are you cast down, O my soul,

C **and why are you in turmoil within me?**

P Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,

C **my salvation and my God.**

+ READINGS +

First Reading -- Judges 6:11–24

Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” And Gideon said to Him, “Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from

the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" And he said to Him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." And he said to Him, "If now I have found favor in Your eyes, then show me a sign that it is You who speaks with me. Please do not depart from here until I come to You and bring out my present and set it before You." And He said, "I will stay till you return."

So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to Him under the terebinth and presented them. And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so. Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in His hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. Then Gideon perceived that He was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face." But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die." Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites. . . .

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading – Micah 5:2–5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for Me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,

from ancient days.
Therefore He shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of His brothers shall return
to the people of Israel.
And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the
LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great
to the ends of the earth.
And He shall be their peace.

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) – **O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe** #666

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 Mighty and eternal God, apart from You, we are weak and fearful, but You have not left us alone or without strength and power. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may daily acknowledge Christ's presence and reject the temptation to fear. Help us to rejoice in His mighty acts, by which we have been saved, and to remember His steadfast love and power when we would be tempted to despair, so that in Christ we may endure all trials and be found faithful when He comes again; 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) -- **In Peace and Joy I Now Depart** #938



Acknowledgments

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