



1st Week of Advent

Wednesday, November 30, 2011

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

First Midweek Advent Service

November 30, 2010

Welcome to our first Advent Midweek Service!

There's something special and refreshing about coming to worship at the end of the day. Nothing against Sunday morning, but for me, there's something REAL about coming to worship and hear the gospel after a full day of struggling to live out my salvation in a world that is opposed to the Gospel and the Lord Jesus Christ. There's something about hearing the Gospel of Jesus after a day of ups and downs, highs and lows, successes and sins.

This Advent season we're trying something I've never seen done. We are going to take a look at how each of the four New Testament Gospels "does" Advent. Each of the four Gospels has a different take on what happens before Jesus arrives on the scene; each has a different view of the Advent season. Mark begins his gospel with Jesus as a grown man, baptized by John before he begins his public ministry. Luke gives us a detailed history of the events that took place shortly before Jesus was born. John teaches us about the eternal nature of the Word made flesh. And then there's Matthew.

Matthew begins his gospel with a long genealogy. There's a part of me that would like to spend 15-20 minutes preaching on the genealogy of Jesus because Matthew uses it to make some amazing statements about the identity of Jesus. After the genealogy, Matthew gives us one event that comprises the total of his "Advent Season." All Matthew gives us is a dream that Joseph has. But, as you will hear, there's a lot to this dream. It changed Joseph's attitude and his heart. It might just change yours...

-Pastor Duncan

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The Divine Service

The Prelude

Hymn-sing

Introduction to Worship and Announcements

The Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

(Matthew 28:18-20)

Confession and Absolution

(Hebrews 10:22)

Pastor: As we take time out of our busy week to listen to the Advent Story according to the Gospel of Matthew, let us do so with a clear conscience and a guilt-free mind. Let us confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: **Merciful Father in heaven, we could pretend that we have it all together. We could pretend that we are doing what you want us to do, that we love you with our whole heart and that we have loved those who you have put into our lives with the same love you have for us. But we don't. We have lived for ourselves above all else. Forgive us and restore us to a right relationship with you.**

(Luke 18:13)

The Absolution (spoken by the Pastor)

People: Amen.

(John 20:19-23)

The Prayer of the Church

Pastor: ... Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

The Service of the Word

Pastor: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter.
People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **(sing) Praise be to thee, O Christ!**

(Please be seated)

The Children's Message

The Sermon Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound

349

Sermon

(Please stand)

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy Christian Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen!

(Please be seated)

The Collection of the Offering

Benediction

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **Amen**

The Recessional: Christ Be My Leader

861

† *Service Participants* †

The Officiant:
Pastoral Assistant:
The Organist:
The Elders:
The Acolytes:
The Ushers:

The Rev. Duncan McLellan
Darren Elikier
Paula Gardner
John Gielarowski & Jay Anderson
Jennifer Fitzgerald
Carl Bauer, Gene Koop, Ron Meier,
& Jack Oelschlager and
Joe Gielarowski, Rachel Klemash,
Steve Kovach, & Andy Weldon
Vickie Buzzelli, Kathleen Conn,
& Shelly James

Altar Guild:

Decorating the Sanctuary



***Please join us this Saturday
(December 3rd) beginning at 9:00
a.m. to help decorate the sanctuary.***

*Christ
IS Coming!*