

This is My Son



ADVENT MIDWEEK - DECEMBER 14TH, 2022

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today.
Please sign the guest register in the entry
as you leave the church today.

TODAY'S SERVICE

December 14th, 2022

Speaker:

Pastor Rob Sauers

Pianist:

Lila Brown

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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 9:1-6

I will praise *You*, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works. ² I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High. ³ When my enemies turn back, They shall fall and perish at Your presence. ⁴ For You have maintained my right and my cause; You sat on the throne judging in righteousness. ⁵ You have rebuked the nations, You have destroyed the wicked; You have blotted out their name forever and ever. ⁶ O enemy, destructions are finished forever! And you have destroyed cities; Even their memory has perished.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING PRAYER

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. Amen.

#64 "Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes"

by William H. Bathurst, 1796-1877

i. Jesus, Thy Church with longing eyes
For Thine expected coming waits.
When will the promised light arise
And glory beam from Zion's gates?

2. E'en now, when tempests round us fall
And wintry clouds o'ercast the sky,
Thy words with pleasure we recall
And deem that our redemption's nigh.

3. Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew,
Our foes repel, our wrongs redress,
Man's rooted enmity subdue,
And crown Thy Gospel with success.

4. Oh, come and reign o'er every land;
Let Satan from his throne be hurled,
All nations bow to Thy command,
And grace revive a dying world.

INVOCATION

p In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. 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.**

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

MAGNIFICAT

P My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;

C **for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.**

P For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

C **For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;**

P and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

C **He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

P He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

C **He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.**

P He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray . . . O Lord, by Your own power, You turn sinners from their wicked ways to become Your adopted sons and daughters through repentance of our sins and faith in Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Help us to direct all our hope to Your gracious will, which You have revealed in Your Son, the Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Romans 5:12–17

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the

transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Matthew 5:17–26

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to

fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

²¹You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison.

²⁶Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

#158 "Glory be to Jesus"

Italian, 18th Century

1. Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the life-blood From His sacred veins!

3. Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torments Did the world redeem!

4. Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

6. Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood,
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

SERMON

SERMON TEXT

Genesis 4:1–16

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” ²And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering He had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” ¹⁰And the LORD said, “What have you

done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to Me from the ground. ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴Behold, You have driven me today away from the ground, and from Your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. ¹⁶Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

THIS IS MY SON: CAIN

#61 "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"

by Johann Olearius, 1635-1711

1. Comfort, comfort, ye My people,
Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.

2. Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.

3. Hark, the Herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance
Since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.

OFFERING

4. Make ye straight what long was crooked,
Make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me today, and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins, wherever I have done wrong, and graciously protect me tonight. Into Your hands I entrust my body and soul and everything else. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the devil may have no power over me. Amen

THE BENEDICTION

p The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen

#554 Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow

by Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676

1. Now rest beneath night's shadow
The woodland, field, and meadow,
The world in slumber lies;
But Thou, my heart, awake thee,
To prayer and song betake thee;
Let praise to thy Creator rise.

2. The radiant sun hath vanished,
His golden rays are banished
By night, the foe of day;
But Christ, the Sun of gladness,
Dispelling all my sadness,
Within my heart holds constant sway.

(continue on next page)

5. Lord Jesus, who dost love me,
Oh, spread Thy wings above me
And shield me from alarm!
Though evil would assail me,
Thy mercy will not fail me:
I rest in Thy protecting arm.

6. My loved ones, rest securely,
For God this night will surely
From peril guard your heads.
Sweet slumbers may He send you
And bid His hosts attend you
And through the night watch o'er your beds.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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