

“From Everlasting to Everlasting”
Advent II – Midweek Service
December 11, 2013

Hymn Sing

(Rise)

Invocation

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

People: Amen.

Responsive Psalmody: Psalm 118 (*Selected Verses*)

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

People: **for His steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor: Let Israel say,

People: **His steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor: Let the house of Aaron say,

People: **His steadfast loves endures forever.**

Pastor: Let those who fear the Lord say,

People: **His steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor: Out of my distress, I called on the Lord,

People: **His steadfast love endures forever.**

Pastor: Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

People: **for His love endures forever.**

All: **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

Pastor: O almighty God, heavenly Father, you are from everlasting to everlasting, and you sent your Son, born from eternity, into the world to be our Savior. Grant us all to ponder the brevity of this life, to find our hope and future in the gospel of your Son, to rejoice in the Advent of the Eternal Son coming as our Savior, and daily to look toward the everlasting life you have promised us in Jesus Christ. In His name we pray.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

Old Testament Prophetic Reading: Isaiah 42:1-7

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope.” This is what God the LORD says— he who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and all that comes out of it, who gives breath to its

people, and life to those who walk on it: “I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 9:11-15

When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

6:00 Jr. High Choir “O Come, O Come Immanuel”

(Rise)

Reading of the Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.” When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, Christ Jesus.**

Sermon Hymn #633 “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”

Stanzas 1-4, then rise for last stanza

At the Lamb’s high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King.
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast-Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death’s dread angel sheathes the sword:
Israel’s hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas’chal victim, paschal bread;
with sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

Sermon “An Eternal Covenant” *Based on today’s readings*

Advent Offerings As your offering is collected, please **sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

Responsive Prayer

Pages 285-287

Pastor: O Lord,
People: have mercy.
Pastor: O Christ,
People: have mercy.
Pastor: O Lord,
People: have mercy.

The Lord’s Prayer

Apostles’ Creed

Versicles

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O Lord;
People: let my cry come to you.
Pastor: In the day of my trouble I call upon you,
People: for you answer me.
Pastor: Hide your face from my sins,
People: and blot out all my iniquities.
Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
People: and renew a right spirit within me.
Pastor: Cast me not away from your presence,
People: and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Pastor: Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
People: and uphold me with a willing spirit.
Pastor: Because your steadfast love is better than life,
People: my lips will praise you.
Pastor: For you have been my help,
People: and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

Pastor: Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth;
People: unite my heart to fear your name.
Pastor: I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
People: and I will glorify your name forever.
Pastor: May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you.
People: May those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!”
Pastor: Save your people and bless your heritage!
People: Be their shepherd and carry them forever.
Pastor: Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
People: listen to my plea for grace.
Pastor: Let us pray.....

Morning Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening Prayer

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have now power over me. Amen.

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn #331 “The Advent of Our King”

The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant’s form puts on To set His servants free.

O Zion’s daughter, rise To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise The peace He comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again
And His true members all unite With Him in heav’n to reign.

Before the dawning day Let sin’s dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.

All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

