

Hark the Glad Sound

Advent 1: The Song of Zechariah

December 2, 2015

As We Gather

Zechariah was a priest who served the living God in His temple in Jerusalem. He and his wife, Elizabeth, were God-fearing, faithful servants of the Lord and “upright in the sight of God.” (Luke 1:6) Yet, when God sent an angel to announce to Zechariah that he would have a son, Zechariah did not believe it and was struck silent. Zechariah’s Song, as it is called, were the first words out of his mouth after naming his son, John, at the time of circumcision. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Zechariah proclaimed the words we ponder tonight, words regarding the coming of salvation and the work that John the Baptist would accomplish. His song is a melody of repentance and forgiveness.

Order of Service

Welcome and Hymn Sing

Opening Hymn “Hark the Glad Sound” *(special lyrics-tune LSB #349)*

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne and ev’ry voice a song.

The Lord fulfills his promises, his cov’nant sworn of old,
To send a Savior, David’s Son, as prophets long foretold.

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes with us to dwell.
Repent of sin, prepare the way for our Emmanuel.

(Rise)

All glory to the Father give, with glory to the Son,
And glory to the Spirit sing, th’eternal Three in One!

Litany

Pastor: O God, we love Zechariah’s melody of repentance—

People: your vision of what his son’s message will be.

Pastor: O Lord, loose our tongues

People: so we may ask what we must do.

Pastor: O Lord, we with one voice join Zechariah’s song of praise:

People: “Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and redeemed them. He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, born of the house of his servant David.”

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Pastor: Let us light a candle,

People: the first candle of Advent.

Pastor: We light a candle of repentance,

People: for we know our failures.

(The first candle of the Advent Wreath is lit at this time.)

Pastor: With one voice we join Zechariah’s song of praise:

People: “Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.”

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Zechariah’s son would fulfill his ministry. He would call the people of his day and of our day to recognize our sinfulness. Let us join with the faithful of every day and age, confessing our sins:

People: Almighty God, I confess to you all of the sins by which I have offended you. I deserve to suffer for my sins, both now and in eternity. I am sorry for my sins and I pray that you will look on me in mercy and forgive me for the sake of Jesus my Savior, who suffered the punishment for my sins when he died on the cross.

Pastor: Zechariah’s son John pointed to Jesus, the Lamb of God who came to take our sins away. God has had mercy on you. He gave his Son to die for you and for Jesus’ sake forgives all of your sins. I announce anew to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. “In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Hymn of Praise (sung to tune #344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry)

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry heart from sin; make straight the way for God within;
And let us all our hearts prepare, for Christ to come and enter there.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more;
Oh, let your face upon us shine, and fill the world with love divine.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray. O Heavenly Father, we praise you for the melody of repentance and forgiveness that is Zechariah's song. Fill us with faith to believe all your words and promises. Grant us to praise you all our days for Zechariah's son who pointed us to Jesus as our Savior and the Savior of the world. Grant us to trust Jesus, hear Jesus, believe in Jesus, and follow Jesus all our days. In His name we pray.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 4:5-6

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.

Epistle Reading: 2 Peter 3:9-13

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

6:00 Anthem

Shine On Us

Grades 5 & 6

(Rise)

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:67-79

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

(Be seated)

Sermon Hymn #347 "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"

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."

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.

Hark, the herald's voice is crying In the desert far and near,

Calling sinners to repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here.

O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away;

Let the valleys rise to meet Him and the hills bow down to greet Him.

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.

Sermon “A Time to be Silent . . . and a Time to Praise” Luke 1:67-79

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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

Prayers

Pastor: O Heavenly Father, we are so grateful for Zechariah's melody of repentance.

People: We bless you, O God of Israel!

Pastor: We praise you that you have raised up a mighty Savior

People: as you promised through the house of David and by the words of your holy prophets.

Pastor: There are still those who hate us and as a result many are suffering for your name's sake;

People: deliver us from our enemies so we may find joy in worshipping you all the days of our lives.

Pastor: There are still those whose voices are stilled.

People: Open our mouths and release our tongues so we may proclaim with great boldness your love and compassion.

Pastor: Our world is still in need of a word of compassion for those who are ill, who are grieving, who are in desperate situations.

People: Grant that we may speak for you, bringing light to their dark place.

Pastor: There are faithful pastors and dedicated, baptized members in your faith communities around the world who wish to bear witness to your covenant faithfulness.

People: Bless your whole Church these Advent days as we join in Zechariah's melody of repentance. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Pastor: Now may the God who surprised Zechariah and Elizabeth with the announcement that they would have a son, and that the Savior of the world was coming, just as had been promised, may that same God continue to bless you and keep you, always surprising and amazing you with His faithful keeping of His promises of love and compassion.

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's 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.

Preacher & Liturgist

Lectors

Acolyte

5th & 6th Grade Teacher

Accompanist

Organist (10:00)

Organist (6:00)

Pastor Harold Bender

Laurel Privatt & Debbie Ulbing

Zander Maxwell

Danielle Jackson

Shannon Krueger

Roger Gottschschalk

Melissa Leon

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Our Advent Series Continues
The Song of Mary
Wednesday, December 9, 2015
10: 00 AM & 6:00 PM

Dinner served at 4:45
Chicken Fettucini
Tossed Green Salad, Rice Krispie Bars
Kids meals: hotdogs, buttered noodles, crunchy carrots

The Song of the Light
School Children's Program
Wednesday, December 16, 2015
10: 00 AM & 6:00 PM

Dinner served at 4:45
Slow Cooker Chicken Tacos, Mexican Style Rice, Black
Beans, Corn, Chocolate Lasagna
Kids meals: hotdogs, chips, crunchy carrots

Prayer Vigils will be held ½ hour before & ½ hour
after each Mid-Week Advent service.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
7821 W. Lincoln Avenue ~ West Allis, WI 53219
414-541-6250 www.splcwa.org