

Advent 3 (13th December, 2020)

Pastor Peter Ghalayini

M: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
All: **because the Lord has anointed me;**
M: he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
All: **to bind up the brokenhearted and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Luke 2:9-18

M: Let us pray: Heavenly Father, help me to find the same joy and boldness as the shepherds in telling the story of your Son's birth. Thank you for this most incredible gift.

All: Amen.

Opening Hymn – Mighty God, we praise Thy name LH 457

1. **Mighty God, we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, our hearts adore Thee.
All creation must proclaim
Thy great works, and bow before Thee.
Ages roll, but Thou wilt be
Lord throughout eternity.**
2. **King of glory, God's own Son,
Humbly our poor nature sharing,
Now to save us Thou art come,
All our sin and sorrow bearing;
Thou hast brought us saving grace,
Freed from guilt our sinful race.**
3. **O have mercy on us, Lord;
Shed on us Thy richest blessing;
Keep us steadfast in Thy word,
Ever Thy great name confessing.
Lord, we trust alone in Thee;
Thine we are eternally.**

*Music: 'Katholisches Gesangbuch,' Vienna 1774 ad.
J.H. Schicht's 'Choralbuch' 1819;
Words: asc. To Ignaz Franz (1719-1790), Tr. Frederick
William Herzberger.
Revised, Hymnal Compilers. In the public domain.*

M: John the Baptist proclaimed “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’
Let us make a straight path for the Lord as we confess our sins to God our Father and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us;

C: **We confess to you, almighty God,
before the whole company of heaven, and to each other,
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, by our own fault.
Have mercy on us, for Jesus’ sake, forgive us all our sins,
and bring us to eternal life.
Amen.**

M: As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

M: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
Lord have mercy,

All: **Lord have mercy,**

M: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
Christ have mercy,

All: **Christ have mercy.**

M: He has shown the strength of his arm,
Lord have mercy,

All: **Lord have mercy.**

M: The Lord be with you,

All: **And also with you.**

M: Let us pray that we receive Christ with joy.

All: **Jesus, our promised Messiah,
John the Baptist went ahead of you
and proclaimed the good news
of your coming.
Encourage us to receive you with joy as our redeemer,
and faithfully follow you.
For you live and reign**

**with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

First Reading – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The good news of God's deliverance

¹The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour. ⁴They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations. ⁸“For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed.” ¹⁰I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1:46b-55 (*Spoken responsively*)

M: ⁴⁶And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

All: ⁴⁸ **for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,**

M: ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things
for me—

All: **holy is his name.**

M: ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

All: ⁵¹ **He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those
who are proud in their inmost thoughts.**

M: ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the
humble.

All: ⁵³ **He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away
empty.**

M: ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

All: ⁵⁵ **to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our
ancestors.”**

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Ready for the coming of the Lord

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all
circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not
quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not treat prophecies with contempt ²¹ but test
them all; hold on to what is good, ²² reject every kind of evil. ²³ May God
himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your
whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord
Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

M: Alleluia, alleluia.
The true light, which enlightens everyone,

All: **was coming into the world. Alleluia.**

Gospel Reading – John 1:6-8,19-28

(Spoken) **Glory to you, O Lord**

He who comes after me stands among you

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ¹⁹ Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" ²⁴ Now the Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: (Spoken) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Thank you, Lord Jesus, the Light,
for coming into the world and shining on us.
Help us to believe in you and follow you.
Amen.**

Gospel Hymn – Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us LH 397

- Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
O'er the world's tempestuous sea;
Guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
For we have no help but Thee;
Yet possessing
Every blessing
If our God our Father be.**

2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;
All our weakness Thou dost know;
Thou didst tread this earth before us,
Thou didst feel its keenest woe;
Lone and dreary,
Faint and weary,
Through the desert Thou didst go.
3. Spirit of our God, descending,
Fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
Love with every passion blending,
Pleasure that can never cloy:
Thus provided,
Pardoned, guided,
Nothing can our peace destroy.

*Music: F. Filitz 1804-1876 (1847), arr. L. Mason 1792-1872
(1853);*

*Words: James Edmeston (1791-1867)
In the public domain*

Sermon

All: 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, dead, and 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.

Offering Hymn – On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry *LH 13*

- 1. 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.**
- 2. Then cleansed be every heart from sin;
make straight the way for God within;
prepare we in our hearts a home
where such a mighty guest may come.**
- 3. For Thou art our salvation Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without Thy grace we waste away
like flowers that wither and decay.**
- 4. To heal the sick stretch out Thy hand,
and bid the fallen sinner stand;
shine forth and let Thy light restore
earth’s own true loveliness once more.**
- 5. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.**

*Music: Melody adapted by William Henry Havergal 1793-
1870 from
a chorale in the ‘Musikalisches Hand-Buch,’ Hamburg 1690;
Words: Charles Coffin 1676-1749, Tr. John Chandler, 1806-76
alt. In the public domain*

M: Let us pray:

Lord, lead us gladly to listen to the message
you have sent about your Son,
and to receive him with faith and joy.
Help us live our lives in union with Christ,
praying, giving thanks, doing good, and shunning evil.

All: Amen.

Prayer of the church

M: Lord, teach us to pray:

All: **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

M: May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Go in peace and joy, and live in the light.

All: **Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favour,
† and give you peace.

All: **Amen.**

Closing Song – May we be one

AT172

- 1. May we be one,
Bound in love for ever,
Growing close together day by day;
Growing as God fills us with His life;
We are joined in Him,
He makes us one.**

- 2. May we be one,
As our Father planned it.
May the love of Jesus make us strong,
No one can harm us when He is near;
He has brought us peace,
He makes us one.**

- 3. May we be one –
Jesus' truth to bind us.
With His body He unites us all;
Dying our death, He restores our life:
Living with us now, He makes us one.**

- 4. May we be one,
Sharing life together
With the Father and His only Son.
Now we have life in this world of death;
Heaven has begun, He makes us one.
Heaven has begun, He makes us one.**

*Music and Words: Robin Mann
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