

ADVENT SERIES:

Jesus Christ: The Light of Our Christmas

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|------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. The Enlightenment of the World | (12/2) |
| 2. The Enlightenment of our Hearts | (12/6) |
| 3. The Enlightenment of our Steps | (12/13) |
| 4. The Birth of Light | (12/25) |

A Service of the Word

TLH (hymns 1-660) is the RED book, WS (hymns 701-800) is the TAN book
(If you have difficulty standing, please feel free to remain seated as needed)

Preservice Devotion: Psalm 27, forepart of TLH p.129

OPENING HYMN

WS 703 (tan hymnal)

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19

Minister (M) In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



Congreg. (C) A - - men

M Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.



C Who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

M I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.



C And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

M Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will, and true obedience to

Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

M Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. *Mark 16:16; John 1:12*



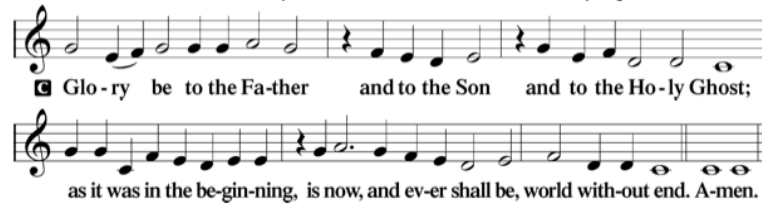
C A - - - men

INTROIT

Ps 146:5-8; Phil 4:4

M Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help,
C **Whose hope is in the Lord his God,**
M Who made heaven and earth,
C **The sea, and all that is in them;**
M Who keeps truth forever,
C **Who executes justice for the oppressed,**
M Who gives food to the hungry.
C **The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners.**
M The Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
C **The Lord raises those who are bowed down;**
M The Lord loves the righteous.
C **Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!**
M Glory be to God...

GLORIA PATRI ~ Glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit



KYRIE ~ Lord Have Mercy

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ Glory to God in the Highest

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward

men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

M The Lord be with you.

Luke 1:28

C And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

M Let us pray ... one God, now and forever,

C A - - - men.

FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14–18

- ¹⁴ Sing, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O Israel!
Be glad and rejoice with all *your* heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away your judgments,
He has cast out your enemy.
The King of Israel, the Lord, *is* in your midst;
You shall see disaster no more.
- ¹⁶ In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Do not fear;
Zion, let not your hands be weak.
- ¹⁷ The Lord your God in your midst,
The Mighty One, will save;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
He will quiet *you* with His love,
He will rejoice over you with singing.”
- ¹⁸ “I will gather those who sorrow over the appointed assembly,
Who are among you,
To whom its reproach *is* a burden.”

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4–7

- ⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!
- ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand.
- ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

GRADUAL

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord. Hallelujah!



C Halle - lu - jah! Halle-lu-jah! Halle-lu - - jah!

GOSPEL LESSON *(rise)*

M And this is eternal life, that we know the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!

Luke 7:24–28

²⁴ When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is *he* of whom it is written:

‘Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
Who will prepare Your way before You.’

²⁸ For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

M These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing, we may have life in His name.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

CREED ~

The Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God
the Father almighty.
From there 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.

HYMN

TLH 64 (red hymnal)

Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes

SERMON

Luke 1:76–79

- 76 “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;
For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,
77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people
By the remission of their sins,
78 Through the tender mercy of our God,
With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;
79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,
To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

The Enlightenment of our Steps

M The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:7



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right



spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from Thy presence;

and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the
joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spir-it. A-men.

HYMN

TLH 69:1-3,5 (red hymnal)

Arise, Sons of the Kingdom

GATHERING OF OUR THANK OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

M The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C A - men, A - men, A - - men.

CLOSING HYMN

TLH 69:6 (red hymnal)

Arise, Sons of the Kingdom

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Participating in this Service of the Word

Music: S. Libby Lead Usher: G. Libby
Minister: Pastor D. Pfeiffer