Lord's Day Worship

A DIVINE SERVICE OF COVENANT RENEWAL

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 19, 2021

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Quiet our minds, O God, and gladden our hearts; that, as we come together to worship you, we may draw near to your presence and find that this place is indeed the very gate of heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

GOD CALLS US

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my

Savior.

People: For he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

For he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name!

And his mercy is for those who fear him,

From generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

He has brought down the mighty from their thrones,

And exalted those of humble estate;

He has filled the hungry with good things,

And the rich he has sent empty away!

He has helped his servant Israel,

In remembrance of his mercy,

As he spoke to our fathers,

To Abraham and to his offspring forever!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen!

(Luke 1:46-55)

†RESPONSE TO GOD'S CALL

†PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our fellow men, in thought and word and deed. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name.

+Silent Prayer+

All this we ask through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near; your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Now lift up your heads, and hear these words of comfort and good news from the Scriptures...

> "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness."

> > Isaiah 61:10a

Our heavenly Father, in his great mercy, has given his only Son to die for you, and for his sake forgives you all your sins; wherefore as Christ's minister and by his authority, I declare to you that all of your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below: Alleluia, Alleluia! Praise him above, ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

HOLY BAPTISM

Fiona Lenore Thomas

PASTORAL BLESSING

Pastor: For you, Fiona, Jesus Christ took on human flesh and was made man. For you he entered the shadow of Gethsemane and the horror of Calvary. For you he uttered the cry, "It is finished!" and died on the tree. For you Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven and there he intercedes — all this for you, little Fiona, though you do not yet know it. But in this way the word of the Gospel is made true:

"We love him, because he first loved us." Amen! All:

PRAYER & PASTORAL WELCOME

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, according to the commandment of Christ, this child, Fiona Lenore Thomas, is now received into the membership of the holy catholic Church and is engaged to confess the faith of Christ crucified and to be his faithful servant to her life's end. Therefore, welcome Fiona in the Lord as Jesus has also welcomed you, to the glory of God.

Amen. Alleluia! All:

†HYMN OF PRAISE

"Be Thou My Vision"..... Selection 642

GOD CONVERSES WITH US

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ! 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, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen. †"Gloria Patri"..... Selection 735 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen, Amen. SERMON TEXT..... Hebrews 10:26-39 PREACHING OF GOD'S WORD "A Faith That Endures"...... Pastor Josh Anderson XXV. Exposition of the Epistle to the Hebrews GOD COMMUNES WITH US †COMMUNION HYMN "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" Selection 193

†The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise!

Pastor: It is indeed right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks unto you, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, in union with the saints who have gone before us and along with the whole church on earth, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O Lord Most High!

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Prayer of Preparation & Faith

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your steadfast love, which endures forever. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Father, to partake of the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ, that we may grow into his likeness, and evermore abide in union with him, and he with us. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Bread

Pastor: Alleluia, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

‡Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Wine

Pastor: Let us confess the mystery of our faith:
All: Christ has died, Christ is risen,

Christ will come again!

GOD COMMISSIONS US

†Prayer of Dedication

All gracious God, who of your infinite love gave your only begotten son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sins and rise again for our justification, and have made us partakers of your divine nature through the gift of the Holy Spirit; accept the fruits of our labors which we now present to you in this offering and also our very selves as we stand before you; and hear us as we pray as your Son taught us: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen!

†Hymn of Praise

†Pastoral Benediction

Pastor:

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his

face toward you and give you peace.

People: Amen!

†Those who are able are invited to stand.

HEBREWS 10:26-39

[26] For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, [27] but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. [28] Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. [29] How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? [30] For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." [31] It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

[32] But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, [33] sometimes being publicly exposed to reproach and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. [34] For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. [35] Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. [36] For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. [37] For,

"Yet a little while,

And the coming one will come and will not delay;

[38] but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."

[39] But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.

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The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 19, 2021