Mid-week Advent 3 December 14, 2022

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last. **Amen.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to your name, O Most High, to herald your love in the morning, your truth at the close of day.

Hymn: 328 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame: "All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary, "most highly favored maiden." Gloria!
- 2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree: a blessèd virgin mother you shall be. Your son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored maiden." Gloria!
- Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
 "To me be as it pleases God," she said.
 "My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name."
 Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!
- 4 Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, "Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.; Basque, c. 18th cent.

Confession

Our help is in the name of the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
in our thoughts,
in our words,
in our deeds,
and in all that we have not done.
Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Deliver and restore us,
that we may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven.

Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve him in newness of life.

Amen.

Psalm: 98G Sing to the LORD a New Song

Refrain

Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

Sing to the LORD a / new song, for he has done / marv'lous things.

The LORD has made his sal- / vation known and revealed his righteousness to the / nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to / Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation / of our God. *Refrain*

Shout for joy to the LORD, / all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with / music;
make music to the LORD / with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of / singing.

Shout for joy before the / LORD, the King.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with / equity.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

29But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. 30The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. 31Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

34Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

35The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month.

37For nothing will be impossible for God."

38Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

Glory to the Father and to the + Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

Sermon

Hymn: 320 As Angels Joyed with One Accord

- 1 As angels joyed with one accord upon the advent of our Lord, so let us gladly praise the name of him who from the Father came.
- 2 He came, not clothed in majesty nor pow'r that suits his deity. In lowly state he walked till he in dying set us captives free.

- 4 In ev'ry age—let praise abound—
 he comes; we hear his voice resound.
 His glorious gospel does not cease
 to bring us comfort, joy, and peace.
- 7 Lift up your heads! All grief and pain shall vanish when he comes again.
 Where we shall see him face to face, there joy alone shall have a place.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–1996, abr., alt.
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Offering

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Prayer

Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry.

Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings. In righteousness I shall see you; when I awake, your presence will give me joy.

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

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.

Song of Simeon

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

In peace, Lord, in peace you let your servant now depart according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for ev'ry people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace, in peace, in peace.

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

Amen.

Acknowledgments

Prayer at the Close of Day from Christian Worship

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