

Welcome to Worship
December 8th, 2024
Advent 2

Prelude *Rorate Caeli* ~ Melissa Dunphy

Gathering Hymn *People, Look East* ~ ELW 248

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, you embodied your love and compassion for humanity by coming to live among us. Teach us also to live in compassion and care for our community and our world, following in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus, for whom we wait in hope. Amen.

First Reading Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

Word of God, word of life
Thanks be to God

Psalm 145: 1-5, 17-21



I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.
Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.
One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.
I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.
You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.
You are near to all who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.
You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;
you hear their cry and save them.
You watch over all those who love you,
but all the wicked you shall destroy.
My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.

Gospel

Luke 1:68-79

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, 'No; he is to be called John.' They said to her, 'None of your relatives has this name.' Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing-tablet and wrote, 'His name is John.' And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbours, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, 'What then will this child become?' For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up a mighty saviour for us

in the house of his servant David,

as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands 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

by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Hymn of the Day

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People ~ ELW 256

Musical Offering

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People ~ David Angerman and Joseph M. Martin (All Saints Choir)

Offertory Hymn

Light Dawns on a Weary World ~ ELW 726 (vs. 1-2, NO refrain)

Communion Hymn

Come to the Table ~ ELW 481
Blessed Be the God of Israel ~ ELW 250

Sending Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling ~ ELW 631

Postlude

Hyfrydol ~ Henry Coleman