

Bulletin for Worship

December 20th, 2020

Glory to God Hymnal #129 “Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming” (vs 1-2)

Lo, how a rose e’er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse’s lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah ‘twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God’s love aright
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

*TEXT: German carol; stanzas 1, 2 trans. Theodore Baker, 1894, alt.; stanza 3 trans. Harriet Knuth Spaeth, 1985, alt.
MUSIC (ES IST EIN’ ROS’ 7.6.7.6.6.7.6): Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609*

Glory to God Hymnal #136 “Go Tell it on the Mountain” (vs 1-2)

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *[Refrain]*

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior’s birth. *[Refrain]*

*TEXT: African American spiritual; stanzas, John W. Work II, 1940
MUSIC (GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 with refrain): African American spiritual; arr. John W. Work III, 1940; harm. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987; harm. © 1989 Melva Wilson Costen*

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

Hierl Family

Today we light the four Advent candles. We light the candle of Hope remembering the Hope of Christ’s coming, the dream that Christ’s gifts of healing are for all the world. (light a candle)

We light the candle of Peace knowing that it is God's grace that will end all division and fighting on the earth. (light a second candle)

We light the candle of Joy celebrating and remembering that the joy of the Lord is our strength and will be our source of courage in this world. (light a third candle)

We now light the candle of Love because it is out of love that God sent his Son into the world to save all of us. (light a fourth candle) The gift of love is shown to us clearly in 1st John 4:17-18 ***God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.***

Please join me in Prayer:

God of perfect love, your love was made complete in sending Jesus to be our savior. Born in humility and gentleness, Christ comes to us offering love that will heal us and free us from our sins. Enable us to know and to share that same perfect love with one another. In joyful celebration of the coming of Christ we pray. Amen.

Hymn: Glory to God Hymnal #99 "My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

My soul gives glory to my God;
my heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me:
yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blessed,
and blessings they shall claim.

From age to age to all who fear,
such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near,
dismissing selfish hearts.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied;
the rich seem suddenly poor.

Praise God, whose loving covenant
supports those in distress,
remembering past promises
with present faithfulness.

TEXT: Miriam Therese Winter, 1979, rev. 1987; © 1978, 1987 Medical Mission Sisters

MUSIC (MORNING SONG CM): Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940;

Harm. © 1943, 1961, 1985 Church Pension Fund

Prayer of Adoration

Carol Wetzel

Prayer of Confession

Patient and Forgiving God, You know how we want to be people of peace and joy, but we tend to see all that is wrong and are blind to the opportunities You provide for us to bring healing and joy to others. We want justice for ourselves, but don't want to have to make sacrifices in order to bring justice to all. Forgive us, O God, when we give only lip service to real acts of compassion and healing, while worrying most about things that do not matter. Free us from our selfishness. Banish our fears and move us in ways of peace and justice, bringing your love and hope to all God's children. We ask these things in God's name. Amen.

Take a few moments to offer your own silent confession.

Assurance of Hope and Forgiveness

Rejoice! You who once lived in darkness – on you a new light is shining and the light of God's glory shall brighten your path. God has spoken and we are healed, loved and forgiven.

The Joy of the Lord will be our strength to serve God and bring peace to the world, Amen.

Glory to God Hymnal #583 "Gloria, Gloria"

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

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Scripture Reading: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Message: "A Message of Hope and Wisdom "

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sending Glory to God Hymnal #102 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

Savior of the nations, come;

virgin's son, make here your home.

Marvel now, O heaven and earth,

that the Lord chose such a birth.

From God's heart the Savior speeds;

back to God his pathway leads;

out to vanquish death's command,

back to reign at God's right hand.

Now your manger, shining bright,

hallows night with newborn light.

Night cannot this light subdue;

let our faith shine ever new.

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,

virgin's son, incarnate Word!

To the holy Trinity

praise we sing eternally.

TEXT: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German para. Martin Luther, 1523; English trans. stanza 1, William Morton Reynolds, 1850, alt.; English trans. stanzas 2-4, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 2006;

trans. stanzas 2-4 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

MUSIC (NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND 7.7.7.7): Erfurt Enchiridion, 1524; harm. Sethus Calvisius, 1594

Benediction