Our text for meditation today is the Psalm that we read responsively.

**Psalms Of Advent:**

**He Sent Redemption**

**Psalm 111**

Mid-week Advent 4

12.22.2021

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Again we are considering the Psalm for this week, Rorate Coeli, Advent 4. This Psalm is a declaration of God’s great works, and giving thanks for them.

God’s greatest work was first foretold in the garden, that the Son of the woman would crush Satan’s head. Throughout the Old Testament, the Advent of God’s Christ, the sending of His Son, our Lord, Jesus, is foretold. In fact, Christ is the entire substance and purpose of the Old Testament.

It is in the Godly and fleshly infant born of Mary, lying in the manger that we begin to see that same child as the God-man nailed to the cross for us. God sent not just a child, He Sent Redemption. That is why the angel tells the shepherds not to be afraid, “for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”

That day of joy and celebration is drawing near, two more days in fact, we will celebrate the birth of God’s Christ.

It is my fervent prayer, that the advent of our dear Lord Jesus is the only thing on your mind, here and now. But we also know that truth, and I say the following most sarcastically.

None of you are thinking about the meal and guests that will be at your homes this evening or tomorrow.

Not a thought is being given to what is in boxes under the tree at home—will they be what you hoped for?

None of you are concerned that the recipients of your gifts will be as pleased with that gift as you were to give it?

None of you is praying that when all the relatives arrive, all the conversation be civil? After all, we know that Dad and grandma do not agree on politics, and cousin Heloise is woke—the proper pronouns for her are now zhe and zhem.

Oh, Lord, let it be peaceful and not like a room of feral cats, hissing and spitting.

Of course, beloved Aunt Hertha’s health is not the greatest—she wants everyone to wear masks and use sanitizer—although her brother Helmut has decried masks and mandates since all this started.

Oh, won’t it all be fun!

Ah…the gifts… the food… the family…

The stress and mayhem!

Where is the joy, the peace----tis the season?

Oh Lord have mercy upon us!

Praise the Lord!

What did our Psalm say? I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them.

Perhaps those words are just the thing right now, the thing we truly need to remember. Every individual I mentioned a moment ago is a wonderful work of the Lord. They are all His creation, each one of them.

Dad, grandma, Heloise, Hertha, and uncle Helmut – all of them – were created and born as wondrous works of the Lord.

Unfortunately, like all mankind, they were born in sinfulness and have added to that score since their birth, therefore they are also subject to God’s wrath, and condemned to suffer hell.

So also all the gifts. Yes, they are things of this world – whether made by crafty hands or mass produced and purchased at retailers. Even still, they are all God’s wondrous creation, His great works, wrought by the works of His creative Spirit in those who made them.

He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and merciful, writes our psalmist this evening. (vs 4)

Everything we have—even the food that will be on the table—is the work of His provision for us. As our Psalm declares, He provides food for those who fear Him... (vs. 5)

It is so, so easy to get caught up in the activities of this festive day that is drawing near. It is easy to forget what CHRISTmas is about, what it is for, and why we celebrate. God, through our psalmist has reminded us that He causes His wondrous works to be remembered, because by ourselves we would forget.

We would forget that He, who is our Lord and God, is gracious and merciful.

As we prepare to give and receive the Christmas gifts, this practice was begun so that we remember that all people have been given a gift, one provided by God—greater than any other gift. It is THE gift that He knows we need.

He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded his covenant forever. (vs. 9)

He sent His only Son, our Lord – our Savior. He came wrapped like a gift, not with paper but in human flesh.

He sent Jesus as a gift for everyone who gets caught up in the season, to give us peace. Peace with Him, and peace between us all.

We are given an infant Child that causes us to draw a breath, and recall His wondrous works, even in the chaos we create for ourselves. We remember His steadfast love, giving thanks and praise to Him who hid in our flesh in order to die for us.

This is the most wondrous of God’s works—Full of splendor and majesty is His work, and his righteousness endures forever. (vs 3) This is His forever work, and for all who call upon His name in faith, joy, peace, and hope.

He sent redemption on Christmas Eve – Him who took away His wrath from us on Good Friday, and assured us of His gracious covenant of peace on Easter Morning.

Yes, Christmas comes with much that is not about His wondrous work.

But today I give thanks to the Lord our God with my whole heart, in the company of the upright – with you all! For great are the works of the Lord!

Greatest of all His works, He sent redemption – for you – and for me – He sent redemption Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.