

THE LORD'S DAY

December 22, 2019
The Fourth Sunday in Advent



United Reformed Church of Nampa
Rev. Nick Smith, Pastor

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www.urcnampa.org • office@urcnampa.org • www.urcnampa.org/sermons
Morning Worship Service: 10:15 AM • Evening Catechism Service: 6:00 PM

Member of:

United Reformed Churches in North America (www.urna.org)
North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (www.naparc.org)
International Council of Reformed Churches (www.icrconline.com)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Part II. Petition

Return, O LORD! How long? Have pity on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. (Psa. 90:13-14)

The Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God and the dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words. (Thess. 4:16-18)

How long, O God, is the foe to scoff? Is the enemy to revile your name forever? (Psa. 74:10)

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me to repay everyone for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. (Rev. 22:12-13)

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev. 22:20)

†Psalm 22D

Advent Prayer

Part I. Summons

Return to me with all your heart. Rend your hearts and not your garments. (Joel 2:12-13)

Let us test and examine our ways and return to the LORD! Let us lift up our hearts and hands to God in heaven. (Lam. 3:40-41)

For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved. In quietness and in trust shall be your strength. (Isa. 30:15)

Behold, we come to you, for you are the LORD our God. Truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel. (Jer. 3:22-23)

I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you. (Isa. 44:22)

The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing. Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads. They shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Isa. 51:11)

Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. (Psa. 116:7-8)

The Advent Psalm

†Psalm 80B

God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 42:1-9
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 602)

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading Luke 2:22-35
This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 857)

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination
Sermon

LUKE 2:22-35

THE CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL
SONGS OF ADVENT #4

- i. For Israel
- ii. For the Nations
- iii. For the Church

God Communes with Us
in the Lord’s Supper

Preparation and Prayer of Consecration

By the promise of God this bread and wine are for us the body and blood of Christ. Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Distribution of the Bread and Wine

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Offering

1st: General Fund
2nd: Word and Deed

God Blesses Us and
Sends Us to Be a Blessing

†Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen!

†Doxology (unannounced, #568)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Postlude

† = please stand, if able

bold = congregational response

* = the congregation is invited to lift hands (during last stanza); cf. Ps. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8

Invitation to the Lord’s Supper

We invite you to participate in the Lord’s Supper with us if you are a professing member in good standing of a Christian church. This means that:

1. you have been baptized;
2. you have made a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ;
3. and you desire to live a godly life in fellowship with his church.

Do you know your place in Christ? Are you known as faithful to Christ by his church? Then you too are welcome at his table.

EVENING CATECHISM SERVICE

6:00 PM

Prelude and Silent Prayer

(Upon entering the sanctuary, please remain silent as the congregation prepares for worship)

†Call to Worship Psalm 150:1-2, 6

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Psa. 124:8; Eph. 1:2

Our help is in the name of the LORD,

Who made heaven and earth.

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

Amen!

†Psalm 148B

†Confession of Faith The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten
Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate; was
crucified, dead, and buried; he
descended into hell;¹ the third day he
rose again from the dead; he ascended
into heaven, and sits at the right hand of
God the Father Almighty; from there he
shall come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy
catholic² church; the communion of
saints; the forgiveness of sins; the
resurrection of the body; and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

†“Glory Be to God the Father” #213; 1*

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to
God the Son, glory be to God the Spirit,
God Almighty, Three in One!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Glory be to him
alone.**

The Life of Gratitude

Deut. 5:6-21

Pastoral Prayer

**Our Father who is 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us
from evil. For yours is the kingdom and
the power and the glory, forever. Amen!**

Psalm of the Month

†Psalm 119K

Scripture Reading Ephesians 6:10-20

This is the Word of the Lord. (p. 979)

Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

ANGELS AND DEMONS

ARTICLE 12, PART 2

THE BELGIC CONFESSION

TPH, p. 859

†“Lead On, O King Eternal” #544

Offering General Fund

†Benediction 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify
you completely, and may your whole spirit and
soul and body be kept blameless at the coming
of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is
faithful; he will surely do it.

Amen!

†“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” #311

Postlude

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bold = congregational response

* = the congregation is invited to lift hands
(during last stanza); cf. Ps. 63:4, 1 Tim. 2:8

¹ See Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 44; Canons of Dort, 2.4.

² “Catholic” means universal; that is, there is one church across all times, places, and peoples (Belgic Confession, art. 27; Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 54).