THE LORD'S DAY

December 22, 2019
The Fourth Sunday in Advent



United Reformed Church of Nampa Rev. Nick Smith, Pastor

12693 Orchard Ave. Nampa, ID 83651 • 208-466-4444 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.urcna.org) North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (www.naparc.org) International Council of Reformed Churches (www.icrconline.com)

MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 10:15 AM

Prelude and Silent Prayer

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

O Lord, raise up we pray your power, and come to deliver us, that we, who are oppressed by temptations, may be so defended by your might, that the hosts of the enemy may never prevail against us; hear us in your mercy, O Lord Christ, who, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Choral Anthem

Welcome and Announcements

God Calls Us to Worship

†Call to Worship Isaiah 12:4-6
And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the LORD, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

†Opening Prayer

†Responsive Reading Rev. 1:4-5; Psa. 96 Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

Amen!

Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD,

For he comes, for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness, And the peoples in his faithfulness.

†"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

God Assures Us of Forgiveness

#298

Romans 13:8-14

Call to Confession

Confession of Sin (*Psalter Hymnal*, 1959)

O Lord, Almighty God, we pray that your holy name may not be blasphemed on account of our sins. For we have sinned against you in many ways. We do not always obey your holy Word as it is necessary for us. Through ignorance, unthankfulness, and discontent, we daily provoke you to wrath. We confess, Lord, that you would be just in inflicting punishment upon us. But we beseech you, O Lord, remember your great mercy and have compassion upon us. Teach us truly to know our sins and sincerely to mourn for them and to amend our life. Forgive us, as you have promised, and give us new life by the power of your Spirit. We pray in Jesus' name: Amen.

Assurance of Pardon 1 Peter 2:6-10 For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

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.

†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)

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)

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; 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

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

Deut. 5:6-21

This is the Word of the Lord.

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

(p. 979)

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

† = 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

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).