

Something Better
2nd Sunday of Advent
12-7-25

Theme - “A Better Glory”

Wouldn't it be great if we had someone to fight all our battles? Well, guess what? We do! Jesus the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being. And that means victory—every time!

† GOD CALLS †

CALL TO WORSHIP:
from Hebrews 10:19-23

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus—

ALL: By a new and living way opened up for us.

Pastor: Let us draw near to God with sincere hearts and in full assurance of faith—

ALL: Having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience.

Pastor: Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess—

ALL: He who promised is faithful and he will do it!

OPENING SONG

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery” (Big Blue, 535)

Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry,
in the dawning of the King,
he the theme of heaven's praises,
robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended,
took on flesh to ransom us.

Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry,
he the perfect Son of Man;
in his living, in his suff'ring
never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
of the law; in him we stand

Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry,
Christ the Lord upon the tree;
in the stead of ruined sinners
hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption,
see the Father's plan unfold,
bringing many sons to glory,
grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry,
slain by death the God of life;
but no grave could e'er restrain him;
praise the Lord; he is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance;
how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected
as will we be when he comes.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you all!
ALL: And also with you!

† GOD SPEAKS †

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Father in heaven, we thank you for your glory, present with Israel in a cloud and all the more present with us in your Son, Jesus. Empower us to believe that with your glory leading us we will live from victory to victory; through

Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 16:1-10

The whole Israelite community set out from Elim and came to the Desert of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had come out of Egypt. ²In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. ⁵On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.”

⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you will see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?” ⁸Moses also said, “You will know that it was the Lord when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord.”

⁹Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’”

¹⁰While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the Lord appearing in the cloud.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 1:1-4

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down

at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:6-14

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

THE AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

- The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

BRINGING OUR BLESSINGS
with Thanksgiving in our Offering

PRAYERS

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; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

SONG OF THE DAY
"This is Jesus" (new song)

Night of wonder
Still and silent
Heavn's brilliance from above
Light of glory
Pierced the darkness
Mercy pierced my heart with love

This is Jesus
King of glory
Here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who
Comes to save us

Prince of peace and Lord of all

O the mystery
Who could fathom
God would leave His Holy throne
For a manger
For a sinner
For us all to be His own

This is Jesus
King of glory
Here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who
Comes to save us
Prince of peace and Lord of all

For the hearts so
Prone to wander
For these feet so quick to flee
God is hear and
Love is reaching
For the lost and least of these

This is Jesus
King of glory
Here to rescue from the fall
Son of God who
Comes to save us
Prince of peace and Lord of all

THE MESSAGE

† GOD GIVES †

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Merciful Father, we are far too much like the Israelites in our first lesson who gripe and grumble, who whimper and whine.

ALL: We believe the lie that you aren't with us.

Pastor: That you don't care.

ALL: That you don't listen.

Pastor: That you don't provide.

ALL: That you don't love.

Pastor: That you don't give.

ALL: God, have mercy upon me, and forgive me all my sins.

Pastor: Moses writes that the glory of the LORD appeared in a cloud to fight Israel's battles and give them victory over all their enemies. We have a better glory in Christ Jesus who has decisively defeated all sin and guilt, hell and death. In him you are forgiven. In him you are washed clean of all sin. And in him you are heaven-bound!

ALL: He who promised is faithful and he will do it!

SONG OF PRAISE

"O Come Let Us Adore Him" (Celebration Hymnal 196)

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

**We'll praise His name forever, We'll praise His name forever,
We'll praise His name forever, Christ the Lord.**

**We'll give Him all the glory, We'll give Him all the glory,
We'll give Him all the glory, Christ the Lord.**

**For He alone is worthy, For he alone is worthy,
For He alone is worthy, Christ the Lord.**

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

"Promise Fulfilled" (AGPS 202)

“The King shall come,” that was God’s Word
Promised of old, to all who heard
The stump of Jesse a righteous branch will grow
Who will bring peace from the Father to His children here below.

The King shall come, our Savior dear
The time fulfilled, Jesus is here!
True God from all eternity is now born
God in the flesh now has come into the world on Christmas morn!

The King now comes, morning has dawned
Bright as the sun, His light shines on
Piercing the shadows and darkness we have known
Filling our lives with the joy and peace that He sends from the throne.

The King shall come, let all awake
Prepare your hearts, your lamps now take,
For like a bride-groom your Master soon draws near
To welcome home to the wedding feast the bride He loves so dear.

“Jesus Name Above All Names”

Jesus, name above all names,
beautiful Savior, glorious Lord
Emmanuel, God is with us,
blessed Redeemer, living Word,

Jesus, loving shepherd
vine of the branches, Son of God,
Prince of Peace, Wonderful counselor
Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

Jesus, Way of salvation,
King of kings, Lord of lords,
the way the truth, and the Life.
Mighty creator, My Savior and friend.

DISMISSAL

CLOSING SONG
“Jesus Messiah”

He became sin, who knew no sin;
That we might become His righteousness;
He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.
Love so amazing, Love so amazing.

Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel,
The Rescue for sinners,
the Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine
Broken and poured out, all for love.
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn.
Love so amazing, Love so amazing.

Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel,
The Rescue for sinners,
the Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

All our hope is in You,
all our hope is in You;
All the glory to You, God,
The Light of the world.

Jesus, Messiah; Name above all names;
Blessed Redeemer; Emmanuel,
The Rescue for sinners,
the Ransom from heaven;
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.
Jesus, Messiah, Lord of all.

† GOD BLESSES & SENDS †

Benediction:
From Hebrews 13:20-21

Pastor: May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.

ALL: He who promised is faithful and he will do it!

Pastor Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

ALL Thanks be to God!