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December 22, 2024 - Weekly Readings

4th Advent

We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1 Land. We appreciate the Gifts of Resources from Creator coming from Treaty 2 and 3 Land. Treaty 1, 2 & 3 Land are the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, Dene, Sioux and the homeland of the Metis Nation. We are grateful for their stewardship of this land and their hospitality which allows us to live, work and serve God the Creator here.

Hymns for the Day

Opening

- O Come All Ye Faithful

Gradual

- Not For Tongues Of Heavens Angels

Closing

- Jesus Shall Reign Where Er The Sun

We have started on our way,

Time to think of Christmas day.

Chorus:

Candle, candle, burning bright,

Shining in the cold winter night;

Candle, candle, burning bright,

Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Advent Candles

Why do we light the fourth candle?

The first candle is the candle of Hope, The second candle was the candle of Peace, The third candle was the candle of Love. This is the candle of Joy. It reminds us of the song of joy that Mary sang when she heard the news that she was to bear the Savior of the world.

Light the Advent candle, two:

Think of humble shepherds, who

Filled with wonder at the sight

Of the child on Christmas night.

Light the Advent candle, three:

Think of heav'nly harmony;

Angels singing "Peace on Earth"

At the blessed Saviour's birth.

LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE

Light the Advent Candle, One:

Now the waiting has begun;

Light the Advent candle, four:

Think of joy forever more;
 Christ-child in a stable born,
 Gift of love that Christmas morn

Micah 5:2-5a

5:2

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
 who are one of the little clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me one
 who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is
 from of old, from ancient days.

5:3

Therefore he shall give them up until the
 time when she who is in labor has
 brought forth; then the rest of his
 kindred shall return to the people of
 Israel.

5:4

And he shall stand and feed his flock in
 the strength of the LORD, in the majesty
 of the name of the LORD his God. And
 they shall live secure, for now he shall
 be great to the ends of the earth,

5:5

and he shall be the one of peace.

Luke 1:46b-55

1:46b

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

1:47

and my spirit rejoices in God my
 Savior,

1:48

for he has looked with favor on
 the lowly state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all
 generations will call me blessed,

1:49

for the Mighty One has done
 great things for me, and holy is
 his name;

1:50

indeed, his mercy is for those
 who fear him from generation to
 generation.

1:51

He has shown strength with his
 arm; he has scattered the proud
 in the imagination of their hearts.

1:52

He has brought down the
 powerful from their thrones and
 lifted up the lowly;

1:53

he has filled the hungry with good
 things and sent the rich away
 empty.

1:54

He has come to the aid of his
 child Israel, in remembrance of
 his mercy,

1:55

according to the promise he
 made to our ancestors, to
 Abraham and to his descendants
 forever."

Hebrews 10:5-10

10:5

Consequently, when Christ came
 into the world, he said, "Sacrifices

and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;

10:6
in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

10:7
Then I said, 'See, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

10:8
When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law),

10:9
then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

10:10
And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

1:39
In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,

1:40
where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

1:41
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit

1:42
and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

1:43
And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

1:44
For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

1:45
And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

1:46
And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

1:47
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

1:48
for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

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for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name;

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indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

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To help support the great work of St Thomas

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The Dismissal

To all our donors and those who have contacted us for one concern or the other, we are grateful for your gifts and presence. Thank you for your generous donations and giving.

We pray that the risen Lord bless and multiply you in all you do.

Go Forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
And be what you are, the church in the World.
Thanks be to God. **Amen.**