

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, 15 S 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Church Website: www.zionharrisburg.org

December 6, 2023 WOW (Worship On Wednesday) 12:10pm Holy Communion Service

Advent & Christmas with the Saints

Week 2: Nicholas of Myra, Pastor

Welcome & Announcements

Invocation

L: The days are coming, says the Lord, when God's promises to Israel and Judah will be fulfilled. Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship, in the name of the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. (Jeremiah 33:14)

C: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: The Lord proclaimed, "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me." Let us take this time to examine ourselves, asking for forgiveness for the things which we have done that are not pleasing to the Lord and the things which we have neglected. (Malachi 3:1)

(Silence for personal confession)

L: God of grace,

C: we confess that we have not been attentive to the urgent call to prepare for the coming of your Son. Prepare our hearts to follow Jesus in doing your holy will. Forgive us, we pray, and shape our lives according to the cross of Christ who has called us to walk in his ways. Restore us to a right relationship with you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

L: In the name of Jesus, God's only Son who came to do the will of his Father, you are forgiven. By Christ's holy sacrifice your sins are wiped clean and you are made right with our heavenly Father. Rejoice in this free gift and take it to heart.

C: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Lighting the 2nd Candle on the Advent Wreath

L: Let us pray: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **C: Amen.**

Gospel Reading: Mark 10:13-16

¹³ And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever

does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”¹⁶ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray: Almighty God, You bestowed upon Your servant Nicholas of Myra the perpetual gift of charity. Grant Your Church the grace to deal in generosity and love with children and all who are poor and distressed and to plead the cause of those who have no helper, especially those tossed by tempests of doubt and grief. We ask this for the sake of Him who gave His life for us, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. C: **Amen.**

Reflection

The Prayers

L: Show us your mercy, O Lord,

C: **and grant us your salvation.**

L: Clothe your ministers with righteousness.

C: **Let your people sing with joy.**

L: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world,

C: **for only in you can we live in safety.**

L: Lord, keep this nation under your care.

C: **and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

L: Let your way be known upon the earth;

C: **your saving health among all nations.**

L: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten,

C: **nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

L: Create in us clean hearts, O God,

C: **and sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

L: *Additional petitions offered...*

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. C **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

L: Blessed are you,
Lord of Heaven and earth.
In your mercy for our fallen world
you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him
should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you
for the salvation
you have prepared
for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit
into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord
with a living faith
as he comes to us
in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

L: In the night
in which he was betrayed
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup is
the new covenant in my blood,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

L: Let us pray together as our Savior has taught us:

C: 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.

L This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are they who are called to his supper.

The Communion

All baptized persons who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine are welcome to the Table of the Lord. Please take an empty cup to receive wine or a pre-filled cup with grape juice as you walk to the front of the worship space to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.

For those attending remotely who are fasting from the sacrament, you are invited to pray the following prayer, The Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if you were already there,
and I unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

(Saint Alphonsus Liguori)

Following the receiving of communion, the pastor will speak a blessing to those who do not yet receive the sacrament.

Post-Communion Blessing

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

L: God of new beginnings, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Strengthen us for the journey of faith as we wait and watch for the Lord's Messiah to break into our world in ever amazing ways.

C: Amen.

Blessing & Dismissal

L: As you go from this place, remember that with God, nothing is impossible. May God the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go. (Luke 1:37)

C: Amen.

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God.**