

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

Church Website: www.zionharrisburg.org

December 20, 2023 WOW (Worship On Wednesday) 12:10pm Service of the Word

Advent & Christmas with the Saints

Week 4: Katharina von Bora Luther

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.

Carol:

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r When we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Lighting the 4th Candle on the Advent Wreath

L: Let us pray: We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence

in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **C: Amen.**

Carol: Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high, Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply Echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

First Scripture Reading: Joshua 24:14-15

¹⁴ "Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 15:9-12

[Jesus said:] ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray: O God, our refuge and strength, You raised up Your servant Katharina to support her husband in the task to reform and renew your Church in the light of Your Word. Defend and purify the Church today and grant that, through faith, we may boldly support and encourage our pastors and teachers of the faith as they proclaim and administer the riches of Your grace made known in Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Reflection

Carol:

What Child is This?

What Child is this, Who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King;
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and reach us to pray:

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.

Blessing

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.

Carol:**Go Tell It on the Mountain**

Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'ry where;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.
Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'ry where;
Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God.