

Hidden In The Tree

Advent Mid-Week

December 7, 2022

Hymn vv. 1-2 "The Hidden Power of God" Tune: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

The world was full of joy and life
And truly "very good,"
When spoken into being by
The Living Word of God.

But soon that innocence was lost
Our future, now a grave.
So all creation groans and waits,
For God's own pow'r to save.

All through the years of pain and strife
The Lord gave promises clear
That He Himself would rescue us,
His children, blessed and dear.
"My holy arm I shall reveal,
And save you with great might."

To this strong hope the saints have clung
Through shadows and through night.

Compline: *Prayer at the Close of the Day*

P: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

C: Amen.

P: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C: to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

P: to herald Your love in the morning,

C: Your truth at the close of the day.

Confession

P: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

C: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

C: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

C: Amen.

God's Word

Matthew 1:1-16 NIV

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

² Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

Perez the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,

Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,

Obed the father of Jesse,

⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

⁷ Solomon the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah,

Abijah the father of Asa,

⁸ Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,

Jehoram the father of Uzziah,

⁹ Uzziah the father of Jotham,

Jotham the father of Ahaz,

Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

¹⁰ Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah,

¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

¹² After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

¹³ Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,

Abihud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,

¹⁴ Azor the father of Zadok,

Zadok the father of Akim,

Akim the father of Elihud,

¹⁵ Elihud the father of Eleazar,

Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob,

¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

Hymn w. 4, 6 "The Hidden Power of God" Tune: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

The bread was split, the people fed;
The dead stood up and walked;
The blind could see, the deaf could hear
But scorn was all their talk.
"Come, save Yourself and we shall praise
Your glory and Your might."
But Jesus' bloody arm stayed strong,
Nailed to the cross so tight.

The Word made flesh was born to save
With pow'r and righteousness.
Not that of man but of the Lord
Amid His quietness.
Within this Child dwells all God's pow'r
He's conquered death and more.
And only through this tiny One
Do we gain heaven's door.

Tune: Public Domain Text: Mark Adams (Used by permission)

Homily "Hidden In The Tree"

Response to God's Word Psalm 31:5 ESV

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

C: You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

Offering

Prayers

P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P: O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in Your mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

P: Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.

P: Abide with us and with Your whole Church.

C: Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world.

P: Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing.

C: Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near.

P: Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

Dismissal and Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32 ESV

P: Guide us waking, O Lord,

C: **and guard us sleeping**

P: that awake we may watch with Christ

C: **and asleep we may rest in peace.**

P: "Lord, now You are letting your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;

C: **for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,**

P: a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

C: **and for glory to Your people Israel."**

Blessing

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

P: May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One Who calls you is faithful and He will do it.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #380 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

