



The beginning of the good news...

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Organ prelude - Dr. Andris Āboliņš

Call to worship - Psalm 85: 8-13

*Let me hear what you will say, O Lord,
for you will speak peace to your people, to your servants whose hearts are turned to you.
For deliverance is at hand for those who fear you so that your glory may dwell in our land.
Mercy and faithfulness have met together, justice and peace have embraced each other.
Faithfulness will spring up from the ground and righteousness will look down from heaven.
The Lord will give prosperity, and our land shall yield its harvest.
Justice shall go before you and the path for your feet shall be peace.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, amen.

Prayer - *Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By His coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Readings - **Andris and Lisa Pružinskis**
Isaiah 40: 3-11

*Comfort, O Comfort my people.
A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with
strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!”

See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1: 1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Homily

Organ solo - Dr. Andris Āboliņš

Apostles Creed - Lisa Pružinskis

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer - Andris Pružinskis

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 for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Organ postlude - Dr. Andris Āboliņš