



The light shines in the
darkness ...

Second Sunday after Christmas

January 3, 2021

Organ prelude - Dr. Andris Āboliņš

Call to worship - Isaiah 61: 10-11

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

*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 – Oh God, our Redeemer, you created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

Gospel Reading – Daina Kusins

John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth... From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Homily

Organ solo - Dr. Andris Āboliņš

Apostles Creed – Daina Kusins

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 of St. Catherine of Siena –

Power of the eternal Father, help me.
Wisdom of the Son, enlighten the eye of my understanding.
Tender mercy of the Holy Spirit, unite my heart to yourself.
Eternal God, give us a voice—your own voice to cry out to you for mercy for the world.
You, who are Light, give us light.
You, who are wisdom, give us wisdom.
With your strength strengthen us. Amen.

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

Let us go in peace and serve the Lord with joy! Thanks be to God.

Organ postlude - Dr. Andris Āboliņš