



12/3 MIDWEEK ADVENT-1 WORSHIP 4:30pm. INVOCATION (Please *rise*.)

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son ✕, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

those who fear him in ev'ry generation.

He has shown the strength of His Arm; He has scattered the

proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty

from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich

he has sent away empty. He has come to the

help of His servant Israel, for He has remembered His

promise of mercy, the promise made to our fathers,

to Abraham, and to His children forever. Amen

THE CONFESSION OF SINS *P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.*

C: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy Law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Your holy Name.

THE ABSOLUTION

P: The Almighty and Merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. (C:) Amen.

OPENING HYMN "Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel" ELH #110 (Sing v1-2;5-6)

1. Oh, come, Oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel - Shall come to thee, O Israel.
2. Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel - Shall come to thee, O Israel.
5. Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come And open wide our heavenly home:
Make safe the way that leads on high And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel - Shall come to thee, O Israel.
6. Oh, come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits us by Thine Advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel - Shall come to thee, O Israel.

The VERSICLES

ELH, p.120

P: ♪ O Lord, open my lips. C: ♪ And my mouth will show forth Your praise.

P: ♪ Make haste, O God, to deliver me. C: ♪ Make haste to help me, O Lord.

The GLORIA PATRI

C: ♪ Glory be to the Father, and to the

Son, and- to- the Holy Ghost. - As it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be, for-ev-er-more. - A-men.

LECTION: SCRIPTURE LESSONS for ADVENT-1W "JESUS IS OUR ELISHA."

OLD TESTAMENT 2 Kings 5.1-14 Elisha sends a messenger to Gen.Naaman

NEW TESTAMENT Philippians 2:5-8 (Jesus) Being very nature God, did not...

RESPONSORY P: O Lord, have mercy upon us. C: Thanks be to You, O Lord!

HYMN "What Child Is This?" ELH #145 (3 verses) GREENSLEEVES

1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest, - On Mary's lap lay 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 love, - The Babe, the son of Mary.
2. Why lies he in such mean estate - Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here - The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, - The Cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made Flesh, - The Babe, the son of Mary.
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings, - Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, - The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, - The Babe, the son of Mary.

THIRD HYMN Once He Came in Blessing ELH #141 (3 verses) GOTTES SOHN

1. Once He came in blessing, All our ills redress-ing;
Came in likeness low-ly, Son of God most ho---ly;
Bore the Cross to save- us, Hope and freedom gave- us.
2. Still He comes within us, Still His Voice would win- us
From the sins that hurt- us; Would to Truth convert--- us
From our foolish er-rors Ere He comes in ter-ror.
3. Who by faith endureth Bright reward secure-eth.
Come, then, O Lord Je-sus, From our sins release--- us;
Let us here confess- Thee Till in heaven we bless- Thee.

The VERSICLE P: Let my prayers rise before you as incense:

C: And the lifting up of my hands - As the ev'ning sacrifice.

The MAGNIFICAT (Song of Mary) words and music at end of bulletin →

KYRIE ELEISON (Lord Have Mercy) C: Lord, have mercy upon us. -
Christ, have mercy upon us. - Lord, have mercy upon us.

The LORD'S PRAYER All pray together (music on p.125)

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. C: A---men.

The (Evening) COLLECT (Pastor prays, Congregation Amen) C: A- -men.

The BENEDICAMUS P: Let us bless the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

The BENEDICTION P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God,
And the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: A- -men.

CLOSING HYMN The Day is Past and Over (RED)TLH! #555 ST.ANATOLIUS

1. The day is past and over; All thanks, O Lord, to Thee!
I pray Thee now that sinless The hours of dark may be.
O Jesus, keep me in Thy sight And save me through the coming night.
2. The joys of day are over; I lift my heart to Thee
And ask Thee that offense-less The hours of dark may be.
O Jesus, keep me in Thy sight And guard me through the coming night.
3. The toils of day are over: I raise the hymn to Thee
And ask that free from peril The hours of dark may be.
O Jesus, keep me in Thy sight And guard me through the coming night.
4. Lord, that in death I sleep not, And lest my Foe should say
"I have prevailed against him," Lighten mine eyes, I pray.
O Jesus, keep me in Thy sight And guard me through the coming night.
5. Be Thou my Soul's Preserver, O God, for Thou dost know
How many are the perils Through which I have to go.
Lover of all, oh, hear my call And guard and save me from them all.

Silent Prayer (Candles out.) You may be seated. FELLOWSHIP

♪ "Magnificat" (Song of Mary) ♪ Please sing along! ♪

C: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; My spirit re-

joices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor

on his lowly servant. From this day all generations

will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great

things for me, and holy is His Name. He has mercy on

ADVENT-1 MIDWEEK "JESUS IS OUR ELISHA, PART 1" 12.03.14 OSL

Grace to you and Peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus.

PRAYER Everlasting God, Who, by the mouths of Your prophets and saints of old, proclaimed the advent of Your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Desire of all nations, the Hope of Israel, the Redeemer of the world: Lead us to repent of all our sins, and so to humble ourselves that we may be prepared to receive Him with gladness and to join in singing: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord! Amen.

Text: (Wk1) **2 Kings 5.9-14;** (Wk2) **2 Kings 6.1-7;** (Wk3) **2 Kings 13.20-21**

OVERALL THEME: **JESUS IS OUR ELISHA**

- I. Jesus **Brings Cleansing for All Our Sins** (midWeek 1)
- II. Jesus **Recovers What Was Lost Through Water** (midWeek 2)
- III. Jesus **Revives our Souls When We Touch Him in His Death** (W3)

Fellow redeemed: Long ago, Elijah the prophet was taken away. On the day he left, he turned to the younger man who was with him and followed after him - **Elisha was his name**. He said to him: what can I do for you before I go? Elisha said: *"Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."* Elijah answered him: *"You ask a difficult thing."* **It wasn't really for Elijah to grant, instead - God.** Yet he said: *"If you see me when I'm taken away from you, it will be so for you."* The two went on walking and talking together.

Elisha was there, when the chariot of fire appeared and swept down from heaven between them. Elisha cried out, *"My father, my father, the chariots and horsemen of Israel!"* As if to say, *"What becomes of us now that you're gone?"* Yet, **Elisha received what he asked for**, what God intended all along.

Elisha went out as a prophet of God Most High, and miracles attended him and his words - all wonderful "sermons" and **pictures of the Promised Savior** and the great things He would do for us.

Many years later, God promised: ^{NKJ} **Malachi 4:5** *"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."*

So for generations they have watched and waited for **Elijah***. The Jews to this day pour a cup of wine for Elijah and set it on the table at Passover. *"But I tell you,"* Jesus said in **Matthew 17**, *"Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished."* ***John the Baptist** came in the Spirit and power of Elijah, **preaching and baptizing**. He was ridiculed, put in prison, and finally **beheaded**.

We have someone greater. **We have an Elisha***. **Jesus is our Elisha**, Who came from Heaven to cleanse us from all sin and impurity.

(Our Text) In **2Kings 5**, there's the story about **Naaman the Syrian**, who was a great General. He was a valiant soldier, but his **life was a mess. He had leprosy, a disease with no cure**. But in his household, there was a **young girl from Israel** that Naaman had taken captive. She said: if only Naaman would go see the prophet in Israel, he would cure him of his leprosy. So Naaman told his king, and the king sent him to go find this man.

The prophet he came to find was **Elisha**. Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and stopped at the door of Elisha's house... In the **same way we approach Jesus**: as **foreigners with no claim** on Him; **unclean** with an incurable disease of sin, that makes us **unworthy**; even **enemies** of him. Like Naaman had taken an Israelite girl captive, we too have seized and **taken what was not ours** - what belongs to others; (we try to take or claim) glory, self-determination, when all that we are and all that we **have is not our own, but God's**.

But, **Look at how a Promise draws us to come too!** To be **cleansed**, to be **healed**, to be **restored!** Elisha did not appear for Naaman. Neither do we see our Elisha, **except with the eyes of FAITH**. Instead Elisha sent a messenger. He said go dip yourself in the Jordan River seven times, and you'll be cleansed. Naaman said: *"I thought he'd come out, wave his hand over my disease and cure me!"* **He was about to go away in a huff**. But his servants said, *"You would have done any great thing he told you to do! How much more, then when he tells you to wash and be cleansed!"*

It will not be by laws or rules, our efforts or our intentions, great things we do, or the strength of our hearts that we'll be clean. But at the word of Elisha, Naaman was healthy, with skin like a little boy. In the same way, **at the word of Our Elisha**, we are clean in God's sight. Jesus came from heaven with **health and cleanness** in God's sight. Jesus came from heaven to bear all our sins away. Jesus suffered and died to **pay for all our sins at the Cross**. In Him all of our sins are forgiven. **Jesus is our Elisha**, Who with a Word brings forgiveness and new life, and hope of eternal life in heaven.

What a thing to celebrate, **His coming this Christmas -- Jesus IS our Elisha**, our God who saves, who brings cleansing to strangers and enemies, and saves us from all our sin. **I'N, Amen. SDG**

LECTION: SCRIPTURE LESSONS for ADVENT-1W *"JESUS IS OUR ELISHA."*

OLD TESTAMENT 2 Kings 5.1-14 Elisha sends a messenger to Gen.Naaman

NIV 2 Kings 5:1 Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. 2 Now bands from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. 3 She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." 4 Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. 5 "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. 6 The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy." 7 As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!" 8 When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." 9 So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. 10 Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." 11 But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage. 13 Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed!'" 14 So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

15 Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. Please accept now a gift from your servant."

LECTION: SCRIPTURE LESSONS for ADVENT-1W *"JESUS IS OUR ELISHA."*

NEW TESTAMENT Philippians 2:5-8 (Jesus) Being very nature God, did *not*...

NIV Philippians 2:5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in Human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a Man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death - even death on a Cross!

(9 Therefore God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the Name that is above every name, 10 that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.)