



**Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

*“Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.” Isaiah 51:1*

**Opening Hymn ... "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"**

LSB 341; vrs.1-4

**Invocation & Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*(Two blue candles and one pink candle are lit on the Advent wreath.)*

P: Today, we light the third candle on the Advent wreath in praise of Jesus our Savior, the Rock and Cornerstone of our salvation. Through faith in Jesus, we are members of the household of God, "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20).

**C: By faith, our lives are built on the solid foundation of Jesus and his Word.**

P: Built on that foundation, "you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5).

**C: Each day, we offer to God the sacrifices of prayer, praise and a life lived by faith.**

**Confession and Absolution**

P: Let us confess our sins to God, and ask for his forgiveness.

**C: Almighty God, you have called us to be your holy people, built on Jesus, the Rock of our salvation. Yet, we often seek to live according to our own sinful desires instead of following your holy will. We try to build our lives on the weak and crumbling foundations of earthly values and possessions. Have mercy on us, and forgive us. Strengthen us to live as your holy people built on Jesus our Cornerstone.**

P: God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, Jesus our Savior, to be born among us. Jesus was the stone the builders rejected. Innocent of all sin, he bore our sins in his body on the cross. Our sins are washed away in his blood. I announce to

you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C: Lord Jesus, help us each day to build our lives on you, our Rock, our Foundation and our Cornerstone.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: Lord Jesus...Hear our prayer and accept our praise. Amen.

**Hymn** ... "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come" LSB 350; vrs. 1, 4

**Old Testament Reading** ... *Isaiah 51:1-3*

**Epistle Reading** ... *1 Corinthians 10:1-4*

**Gospel Reading** ... *Matthew 7:24-26*

**Sermon Hymn** ... "Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring" LSB 353; vrs. 1-3

### **Sermon**

### **Apostles' Creed**

### **Offering & Attendance / Involvement Cards**

*(Offerings will go to Bibi's Hope in Africa)*

### **Prayers**

P: *(after each petition)*...Rock of our salvation,

**C: Help us to build our lives on you.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Benediction**

P: Jesus said, "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

**C: And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock."**

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

**Closing Hymn** ... "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" LSB 575

## *December Advent Worship Schedule*

**Wednesday, Dec. 18:** Advent Worship, 11:30 AM & 7 PM

**Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24:**

- ✝ Candlelight Services at 11:30 AM, 4 PM & 11 PM.
- ✝ Contemporary Candlelight Service at 7 PM

**Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25:** 9 AM Worship with Holy Communion

**Sunday, Dec. 29:** (First Sunday after Christmas) 8:15 & 10:45 AM Worship Services

**New Year's Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 31:** Holy Communion Worship service at 11:30 AM & 6 PM

