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Welcome

Bell Call to Worship

Opening Versicles

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Opening Hymn

“Hark the Glad Sound”

#349

Old Testament Reading

Judges 6:11-24, 7:2-9 (ESV)

Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, "The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor." And Gideon said to him, "Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, 'Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?' But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian." And the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?" And he said to him, "Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house." And the LORD said to him, "But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man." And he said to him, "If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speak with me. Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you." And he said, "I will stay till you return." So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. And the angel of God said to him, "Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them." And he did so. Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, "Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face." But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die." Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD Is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites. The LORD said to Gideon, "The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, 'My own hand has saved me.' Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, 'Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.'" Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained. And the LORD said to Gideon, "The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' shall go with you, and anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' shall not go." So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink." And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home." So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men. And the camp of Midian was below him in the valley. That same night the LORD said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Psalm 85

L: LORD, you were favorable | to your land;* you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

C: You forgave the iniquity of your | people;* you covered | all their sin.

L: You withdrew | all your wrath;* you turned from your hot | anger.

C: Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,* and put away your indignation | toward us!

L: Will you be angry with us for- | ever?* Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?

C: Will you not revive | us again,* that your people may re- | joice in you?

L: Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,* and grant us your sal- | vation.

C: Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,* for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.

L: Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,* that glory may dwell | in our land.

C: Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;* righteousness and peace kiss each | other.

L: Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,* and righteousness looks down | from the sky.

C: Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,* and our land will yield its | increase.

L: Righteousness will go be- | fore him* and make his foot- | steps a way.

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2-5a (ESV)

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Responsory for Advent

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Hymn of the Day

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

#359

Sermon

Offering

Offertory

“My Soul Rejoices”

#933

Prayer

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Collect of the Day

Collect of the Word

Evening Prayer

Blessing

Closing Hymn

“The Day Thou Gavest”

#886

The Lord, as One Man, Conquers Our Enemies and Rescues Us. Judges 6:11–24 ESV

Introduction and Goal

Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress.

May we see that, despite the apparent weakness of Jesus, He is our Gideon, a strong deliverer from sin, death, and the devil.

The Lord is with us, perhaps to _____ us, even as we feel forsaken.

We can understand _____ response.

The messes we experience are sometimes of _____ making.

God seeks to lead us to _____ so, in faith, we might call upon His name again.

We can look at Gideon as a picture of _____ .

Even though Gideon was weakest and least, he was the _____ man for the job.

The power of God being hidden beneath seeming powerlessness points us to a fulfillment in _____ .

The Lord Jesus defeats _____ of our enemies as one man.

Jesus, our mighty _____ of _____ , appeared to be vulnerable and helpless.

Jesus is an army of one, the _____ who can deliver us from our enemies.

We are given peace, an invitation to come into the Lord's presence without fear, through _____ in Christ Jesus.