

Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Fareham

Advent Vespers

St. Francis, Funtley

19 December 2012

7 pm

Psalm 85



L Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear
him,*

that glory may dwell | in our land.

C **LORD, you were favourable | to your land;***
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

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

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

L Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,*
and put away your indignation | towards
us!

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

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

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

L 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.

C **Surely his salvation is near to those**
who | fear him,*

that glory may dwell | in our land.

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

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

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

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

❖ ***Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;***

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now and will be forever. | Amen.

L Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear
him,*

that glory may dwell | in our land.

First Reading—Ezekiel 36:22–38

²²“Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the

Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹And I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. And I will summon the grain and make it abundant and lay no famine upon you. ³⁰I will make the fruit of the tree and the increase of the field abundant, that you may never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations. ³¹Then you will remember your evil ways, and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves for your iniquities and your abominations. ³²It is not for your sake that I will act, declares the Lord GOD; let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel.

³³“Thus says the Lord GOD: On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places shall be rebuilt. ³⁴And the land that was desolate shall be tilled, instead of being the desolation that it was in the sight of all who passed by. ³⁵And they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.’ ³⁶Then the nations that are left all around you shall know that I am the LORD; I have rebuilt the ruined places and replanted that which was desolate. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it.

³⁷“Thus says the Lord GOD: This also I will let the house of Israel ask me to do for them: to increase their people like a flock. ³⁸Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so shall the waste cities be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”

Second Reading—Ephesians 4:1–16

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith

and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Third Reading—John 16:4b–15

[Jesus said,] “I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgement: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgement, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Catechism

P The Creed, the Third Article:

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

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

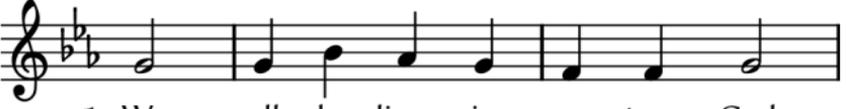
On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Office Hymn: We All Believe in One True God



1. We all be-lieve in one true God,
2. We all be-lieve in Je-sus Christ,
3. We all con-fess the Ho-ly Ghost,



Fath-er, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost,
Son of God and Ma-ry's son,
Who from both in truth pro-ceeds,



Ev-er-pre-sent help in need, Praised by all the
Who des-cen-ded from His thrones And for us sal-
Who sustains and comforts us In all tri-als,



heav'n-ly host; All He made His
va-tion won; By whose cross and
fears, and needs. Bless-ed, ho-ly



love en-folds, All cre-a-tion He up-holds.
death are we Res-cued from all mi-se-ry.
Trin-i-ty, Praise for-ev-er be to Thee!

Closing Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

- 1 O come, O 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 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
- 3 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
- 4 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing night;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
- 5 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.