



“JESUS: THE SON OF SCANDAL”

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 4:00PM

Worship Service

AS WE GATHER

As we unpack Matthew’s genealogical history of Jesus, we find several scandals, for in His family tree are people involved in incest, prostitution, adultery, and murder. But our gracious Lord brought good from the bad, even going to the cross to include us! We are all prodigal children, now joined to the Body of Christ and heirs of heaven only by the grace of God through our Baptism. And so, we pray to the “Son of scandal,” come quickly, Lord Jesus.

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES (2 Samuel 12:9, 24; Titus 3:3–5a; Mark 1:11)

P Although Nathan condemned David, “You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife,”

C **she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon.**

P Paul writes that although “we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient,

C **when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us.”**

P When John baptized Jesus, “A voice came from heaven, ‘You are My beloved Son;

C **with You I am well pleased.’”**

PSALM (Psalm 71:1–12; antiphon: v. 1)

P This psalm, perhaps by David, reflects on a life marked by scandal and conflict.

In You, O LORD, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame!

In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;

C **incline Your ear to me, and save me!**

P Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come;

C **You have given the command to save me,
for You are my rock and my fortress.**

P Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,

C **from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.**

P For You, O LORD, are my hope,

C **my trust, O LORD, from my youth.**

P Upon You I have leaned from before my birth;

C **You are He who took me from my mother’s womb.**

P My praise is continually of You.

C **I have been as a portent to many,
but You are my strong refuge.**

P My mouth is filled with Your praise,
C and with Your glory all the day.

P Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
C forsake me not when my strength is spent.

P For my enemies speak concerning me;
C those who watch for my life consult together

P and say, “God has forsaken him;
C pursue and seize him,
for there is none to deliver him.”

P O God, be not far from me;
C O my God, make haste to help me!

**In You, O LORD, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame!**

GREAT O ANTIPHON

P This Great O Antiphon asks God for relief from spiritual darkness.

O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

C **Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

Sit

HYMN (Sung to the tune of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” LSB 357)

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain.
- 2 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight. Refrain.
- 3 O come, our Brother, enter in,
Though this world teems with scand’lous sin.
With fallen sinners in Thy tree,
We find ourselves forgiven, free. Refrain.

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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FIRST READING

2 Samuel 12:7–10, 15–18, 24

P Although David had Bathsheba’s first husband killed in battle, their son would be the great King Solomon.
A reading from Second Samuel, chapter 12.

⁷Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. ⁸And I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to

you as much more. ⁹Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. ¹⁰Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’

¹⁵Then Nathan went to his house.

And the LORD afflicted the child that Uriah’s wife bore to David, and he became sick. ¹⁶David therefore sought God on behalf of the child. And David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground. ¹⁷And the elders of his house stood beside him, to raise him from the ground, but he would not, nor did he eat food with them. ¹⁸On the seventh day the child died. And the servants of David were afraid to tell him that the child was dead, for they said, “Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spoke to him, and he did not listen to us. How then can we say to him the child is dead? He may do himself some harm.”

²⁴Then David comforted his wife, Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her, and she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon. And the LORD loved him

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Titus 3:3–7

P In our Baptism, God’s grace was “poured out on us richly.” A reading from Titus, chapter 3.

³For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

THIRD READING

Mark 1:4–11

P For all of us in the Body of Christ, the verdict on Him, “My beloved Son,” is ours by the grace of God. A reading from Mark, chapter 1.

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY *(Based on 2 Samuel 12:24; Titus 3:5; Mark 1:8)*

P She bore a son, Solomon.

C He saved us according to His own mercy.

- P** Not because of works done by us,
C **He saved us according to His own mercy.**

- P** He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.
C **He saved us according to His own mercy.**

Sit

HYMN of the DAY

“To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord”

LSB 405 sts. 1, 5 & 6

- 1 To Jordan’s river came our Lord,
The Christ, whom heav’nly hosts adored,
The God from God, the Light from Light,
The Lord of glory, pow’r, and might.
- 5 The Father’s word, the Spirit’s flight
Anointed Christ in glorious sight
As God’s own choice, from Adam’s fall
To save the world and free us all.
- 6 Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;
This man is Christ, our substitute!
He was baptized in Jordan’s stream,
Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.

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SERMON

Stand

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

COLLECTS

- P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, guide and protect clergy and lay leaders of Your Church. Enable them to lift people’s hearts and minds to look beyond global pandemics, natural disasters, and political upheavals to see the eternal Kingdom, which You have graciously opened to all people who trust in You for life and health and peace. Bless those who till the soil, manage farms, transport supplies, and distribute food and clothing where they are needed. Son of David,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Almighty Lord, give wisdom and courage to those who lead governments, command armed forces, and maintain order in society. Give them hearts to seek peace so that warfare with neighbor states and civil strife within them give way to prosperity, health, and cooperation. Increase our faith to depend on Your eternal promises of the better country that awaits us by grace. Son of Abraham,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Jesus, Light of the world, open the hearts of all who are burdened by their scandals and other past sins. Surround them with faithful people to tell them about Your coming in human history to give Yourself for them. Protect and guide all law enforcement personnel, first responders, health care workers, and counselors. Help them balance justice, mercy, and compassionate care so that many may have their lives repaired and hope restored. Son of scandal,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Lord, cared for by Your adopted human father, Joseph, remember people like him, those who have been forgotten, whether dispossessed, incarcerated, or isolated for any reason. Remember not their sins and iniquities but give them a sense of Your abiding presence. Nurture in us all a love for Your will so that we obediently do whatever You ask. Son of Joseph,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Servant Savior, born in a stable to a lowly Virgin, remind us again that You turn the world's ways upside down. Give strength to the weak, lift up the downtrodden, provide hope for the despairing, announce peace to the distraught, and proclaim eternal forgiveness to all burdened by their sin. Son of Mary,

C **hear our prayer.**

COLLECT FOR TODAY

P Lord Jesus, the people included in Your family tree dealt with scandalous sin within and around them, and yet from them You graciously entered human history.

C **Help us to see Your grace at work in us, we who have been grafted into Your family tree by Baptism. Strengthen us to truly be Your forgiven and adopted brothers and sisters.**

P Son of scandal,

C **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C **Amen.**

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

“Arise, O Christian People”

LSB 354 sts. 1 & 4

1 Arise, O Christian people!
Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior,
Who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone
The truth and light were given;

The promised Lord from heaven
To all the world is shown.

- 4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
Turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive You
This blessèd Adventtide.
From stall and manger low
Come now to dwell within me;
I'll sing Your praises gladly
And forth Your glory show.

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