

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

People: Heavenly Father, as sinful people we are those who live in the shadow of death. At times, our sin and its consequence threatens to overwhelm us. We despair and lose hope. At other times, we pretend that our sins don't exist or they don't matter very much. In every case, we know that death has come through sin. We seek your mercy and ask you to forgive us and wipe away our sins. Renew us and lead us into your will and your ways, so that we may know the new life you intend for us. Through Jesus Christ, our coming Lord and King. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. 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

Scripture Readings

December 14, 2008

Isaiah 9:1-7

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan- The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Luke 1:76-79

And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Outline - December 14, 2008
"Room at the Inn" • Phoenix Inn
Luke 1:76-79

Introduction: Living in the shadow of death...

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." Isaiah 9:2

- Rising from the ashes...

- _____.

"And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him..." v. 76

- We have one who goes before us.

- _____.

"...to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins..." v. 77

- Who assures us of our standing before God.

- _____!

"...because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven..." v. 78

- God Himself has come to save.

- _____.

"...to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace." v. 79

- Guided into true peace.

Answers to Sermon Outline: prepared, forgiven, rescued! restored

THE BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: And the people took the blessing and held it in their hearts.

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!