



WONDERFUL
COUNSELLOR

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A Member of
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2024 THEME FOR BEREA & ZION

“WHAT’S KEEPING US HERE?”

“This is what the Lord says to you: Do not be afraid or discouraged- For the battle is not yours but God’s.” 2 Chronicles 20:15

The answer to this question may seem obvious: Our faith in God, the Father, our Saviour Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Because of that we want to be fed by Him through Word and Sacrament, praise Him, worship Him and thank Him. We also want to grow in our faith to live it out, spreading His message to others.

In an ever-changing world with so many challenges, let us make 2024 a year to use the different talents and abilities God has given us to make our church a welcoming place for all. Working together in love because He first loved us! Remembering and trusting: He will be with us and guide us!

BEREA & ZION GUESTS

At the end of worship we would like to invite you to please take a moment to sign our guest book in the foyer.

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

Welcome in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour! It's great to have you with us today! If you're here because you're looking for a church family to be a part of, we're always excited to unite brothers and sisters in Christ. Talk to Pastor John today.

Advent 1 ~ December 1, 2024

As We Gather

During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Son, who was given the name Jesus – a Hebrew name that means “God saves.” However, in addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles that describe something about His person or work. We will examine the four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6-Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace-and will study how each of these titles describes something about who Jesus is and what He did for our salvation.

Today we consider how God rescues us from the cunning counsel of the devil and blesses us with the wonderful counsel of His Son, whose Word of truth sets us free from sin and its damning deception. Jesus is given the title Wonderful Counsellor because His Word rescues us from the lies of the devil and our own self-deception and leads us into God's wisdom, which results in our salvation.

WELCOME AND SHARING OF PEACE

Opening Hymn 900 (vs 1-3) Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

*1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev'ry knee Bow in deep humility.*

*2 Jesus! Name decreed of old, To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell, By the angel Gabriel.*

*3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen of the earth
For the promise that it gave, “Jesus shall His people save.”*

Invocation

P: We come together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN

Confession and Absolution

P: As Children of God, we don't always bring our sins to God, confident that our Wonderful Counsellor has forgiven them all. Let us therefore confess our sins now.

C: **I confess heavenly Father, that I have sinned against You. Some of my sin I know – the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed – but some are known only to You. In the name of Jesus, I ask for Your forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may know peace.**

P: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus, and in Him we are forgiven. I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. You are at peace.

C: AMEN

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 119:129-136

P: Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

C: **The unfolding of Your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.**

P: I open my mouth and pant, because I long for Your commandments.

C: **Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is Your way with those who love Your name.**

P: Keep steady my steps according to Your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me.

C: Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep Your precepts.

P: Make Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes.

C: My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep Your law.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. AMEN

Prayer of the Day

P: *We pray.* Lord, shine into our hearts and illumine every part of our lives, so that we will be ready to rejoice at Your birth and be guiding lights for those who don't yet know Your saving grace and forgiveness.

C: AMEN

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Romans 11:32-36

For God has consigned all to disobedience, that He may have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counsellor?" "Or who has given a gift to Him that he might be repaid?" For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Response for Advent

Jeremiah 23:5a, 6

P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P: In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 7:24-29

"Everyone then who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 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. And everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at His teaching,

for He was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Catechism

The Second Article

P: What does it mean that we believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Children's Talk (Zion)

Hymn of the Day 412 The People That in Darkness Sat

*1 The people that in darkness sat A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.*

*2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness, The gath'ring nations
come;
They joy as when the reapers bear
Their harvest treasures home, Their harvest treasures home.*

*3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a Son is giv'n,
And on His shoulder ever rests
All pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.*

*4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Everlasting Lord,
The Wonderful, the Counsellor,
The God by all adored, The God by all adored.*

*5 His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.*

*6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one, And Holy Spirit, one.*

Sermon

The Offerings Are Gathered

(The Offertory Prayer is sung as the offerings are brought forward)

*We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.*

*May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!*

Prayers of the Church

P: Wonderful Counsellor, we come to You, thankful that You have enlightened us with the counsel of Your wonderful gracious word of forgiveness for all our sins. Help us, we pray, as we interact with people who may be entrapped by their sin, not knowing Your full forgiveness, and unable to rejoice at the anniversary of Your birth. Use us and all we have, to bring others to hear and believe the Good News. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Mighty God, we come to You in faith, trusting that You were, and are ,God in the flesh, our Immanuel. Strengthen all who are

in distress from the worldly forces that surround us. Assure us of Your presence, strengthen our faith, and lead us to Your home above, where we may all rejoice together in Your love and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Everlasting Father, we come to You who sent Your Son to conquer sin and death. As ruler of creation, while also serving Your people as a caring Father, grant us to know always Your eternal presence among us. Help us to amend our lives and pass on the joy of Your eternal forgiveness to our neighbours, friends, and family. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Prince of Peace, we give thanks that You came to earth and paid the penalty that our sins deserved. Grant us steadfastness of faith to be at peace with one another, knowing that because of Your grace and love for us, we will be with You in eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Jesus, we pray for all who suffer illness, for those troubled by anxiety over their current circumstances, for all those wrestling with the unknown future, and for all who call to You in their time of need. Lord, we especially lift up... and all in our hearts. Give them hope, healing, and peace as You know is right and best. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Holy Spirit, be with those celebrating birthdays, baptismal birthdays, and anniversaries this week. Thank you for the past, and we look forward to the future. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: These things we pray to You, Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, for You live and

reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN

Lord's Prayer

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

Benediction

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

C: AMEN

Closing Hymn 334 (vs 1,5-6) O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

***1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.***

***5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Cannot His love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing Eternal life in heav'n.***

***6 He comes to judge the nations, A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering, And guide us safely home.***

Announcements and Dismissal

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE

BEREA

Organist: Bill Irwin
Altar Guild: Kevin & Heather Ball
Elders: Kevin Ball, Chuck Becker
For Prayer: Lilo 226 421-2436, Elizabeth 237-3622

ZION

Organist: Joanne Maguire
Altar Guild: Y. Hendrick / B. Brown
Elders: Ken Rader, Jim Hayter, Tom Hayter, Randy Bowers
For Prayer: Nancy 237-3653, Brenda 237-3789
Children's Talk: Doris Osgood

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