

**Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Katharina von Bora**

**COLLECT: (*Remain Standing*)**

Almighty God, who called your servant Katharina von Bora from a cloister to work for the reform of your church: Grant that, for the sake of your glory and the welfare of your church, we may go wherever you should call, and serve however you should will; through Jesus Christ, our only mediator and advocate. **Amen.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 11:10-16 (*Please be seated*)**

Reader: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

On that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that is left of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Ethiopia,\* from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.

He will raise a signal for the nations,  
and will assemble the outcasts of Israel,  
and gather the dispersed of Judah  
from the four corners of the earth.

The jealousy of Ephraim shall depart,  
the hostility of Judah shall be cut off;  
Ephraim shall not be jealous of Judah,  
and Judah shall not be hostile towards Ephraim.

But they shall swoop down on the backs of the Philistines in the west;  
together they shall plunder the people of the east.

They shall put forth their hand against Edom and Moab,  
and the Ammonites shall obey them.

And the Lord will utterly destroy  
the tongue of the sea of Egypt;  
and will wave his hand over the River  
with his scorching wind;  
and will split it into seven channels,  
and make a way to cross on foot;  
so there shall be a highway from Assyria  
for the remnant that is left of his people,  
as there was for Israel  
when they came up from the land of Egypt.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm 66

Reader: Let us pray together the words of Psalm 66.

1 Be joyful in God, all you lands; \*  
sing the glory of his Name;  
sing the glory of his praise.

2 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! \*  
because of your great strength your enemies  
cringe before you.

3 All the earth bows down before you, \*  
sings to you, sings out your Name."

4 Come now and see the works of God, \*  
how wonderful he is in his doing toward all  
people.

5 He turned the sea into dry land,  
so that they went through the water on foot, \*  
and there we rejoiced in him.

6 In his might he rules for ever;  
his eyes keep watch over the nations; \*  
let no rebel rise up against him.

7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be heard;

8 Who holds our souls in life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.

9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

10 You brought us into the snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

11 You let enemies ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and water; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of  
refreshment.

12 I will enter your house with burnt-  
offerings and will pay you my vows, \*  
which I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in  
trouble.

13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts  
with the smoke of rams; \*  
I will give you oxen and goats.

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.

15 I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.

16 If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;

17 But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my  
prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me.

## **Revelation 20:11-21:8 (*Please be seated*)**

**Reader:** A reading from the book of Revelation.

Then I saw a great white throne and the one who sat on it; the earth and the heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home\* of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell\* with them;  
they will be his peoples,\*  
and God himself will be with them;\*  
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But as for the cowardly, the faithless,\* the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.’

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## **Luke 1:5-25 (Please stand as you are able)**

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.'

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

Deacon or Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Christ**