

Advent Three
Year of the Lord 2021

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”
“Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!
Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to Thee!”**

Luke 7:18–28 *I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.*

In the Name of Jesus:

Now THIS is a God we can sink our teeth into! And we do!

“This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹ But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. ²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!” ²³ And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For

who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.¹

My dear ones, none of the New Covenant was recorded to ‘leave us hanging,’: ‘Which one of us could it be? Who can be saved? Is it I?’ THAT unfulfilled-contract with Heaven is called the Law, which levels every one of us; even John. ‘No one is greater than John.’ In other words, ‘Y’all are all the same.’

And I cannot believe it. Ain’t there a Lutheran in the building? One Protestant to protest?! I just said to y’all that your King, Jesus, said, ‘Y’ALL are all the same!’ And you did not correct your poor, miserable pastor....

‘STOP!, pastor!’ ‘Read the Bible correctly!’

‘Among those born of women none is greater than John.’ ‘Y’ALL are ALL the same?!’ Nope! For the Man Who evaluated John that way was born of a woman named Mary and thus MUST mean THIS: ‘Among those born of women none is greater than John; so, in answer to the question *WHO IS THE GREATEST*, the LAW says, even JESUS says, NOT ‘Y’ALL are basically the same.’ He says, ‘WEEEEEE are all the same in the eyes of the Law.’ Jesus and John and you and me and the betrayer Judas and the denier Simon and so on and so on, to the ends of the earth.

The King of Kings and Lord of Lords—this same Babe, the Son of Mary—proves it by His rule EVEN in THIS sad

¹ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 22:19–27). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

kingdom in which we still fuss! He proves—daily and much! (by OUR sins!)—He proves that HE counts HIMSELF among those none greater than the next, under the Law, under the threat and the shadow of death.

HE rules every last bit of...everything! And, in Heaven's boundless patience, God puts up with you, and me, and everyone else like us, moaning and groaning and smart-alecking about 'How things are' in the world and 'How they SHOULD be!' and 'If I WAS in charge' and 'If I HAD the power to...' and 'If I WAS GOD....'

That last one interests the Virgin's Son most of all. 'Yes?!' And 'If YOU...WAS...GODDD?!!!' 'Let's rap!'

The manger-born tells us how God is....NOW! NOW that you CANNOT find one SCRAP...OF...GOD...OUTSIDE...OF this one Man! Or outside those to whom He promises, 'The Kingdom of God is in your midst!'

²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” ²

“Whoever receives this child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who sent me. For he who is least among you all is the one who is great.” ³

'If I was in charge...!....' You are!

² [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 7:28–9:48). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

³ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 9:48). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

²⁷ “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹ To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also,⁴

‘If I WAS God!’ Jesus says, ‘Go ahead!’

²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

²⁸ “You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” ³³ Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” ³⁴ Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”⁵

The baptized life; the Communion of Holy Things and Holy Ones, forgiven and forgiving and turning great and least and biggest and littlest into one big, happy jumble.

⁴ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 6:27–29). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁵ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 22:27–34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

My dear ones: my granddaughter, Emma Grace, is greatest in the kingdom in playing the 'How big' game, arms up! And since no one is greater or least under the Law and in this passing world, Let me ask the Babe of Bethlehem: 'How big is Jesus?' 'SOooo Big!' Manger big and cross big and as big a bigshot as all those sinners being baptized by John and as big as a bit of bread and a sip of wine and as big as those who commune with you to strengthen YOU as they turn, turn, turn again in the Name of Jesus.