

# ✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Midweek in Advent 3

December 16, 2020

## Vespers

### JESUS, THE LIFE OF JESSE'S TREE

As the celebration of Christ's birth draws near, it is good to remember that the Advent season is about life. God entered this world, which is marred by death, as a vulnerable baby, brimming with the hope of new life. This Christ Child grew up to be the resurrection and the life, so that in the midst of the darkness of death, we have hope for life now and into eternity. Our Advent calling is to let the life we now have in Christ shine forth into the dark places of our world, so that those who dwell in the land of deep darkness may know the light and life of Jesus.

#### 342 What Hope! An Eden Prophe-sied



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,  
3 As ban-ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth-le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword— Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

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*Stand*

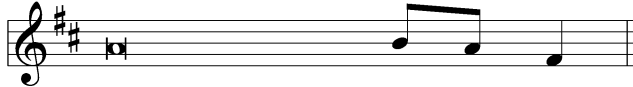
#### Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

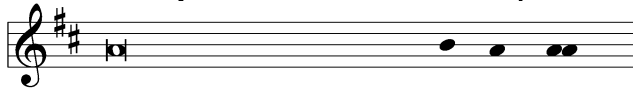
**Amen.**



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.  
 Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

## Psalmody

### Psalm

*Psalm 16; antiphon: v. 11*

- C** You make known to me the | path of life;\*  
 in Your presence there is fullness of joy;  
 at Your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.
- L** Preserve me, | O God,\*  
 for in You I take | refuge.
- C** I say to the LORD, “You | are my Lord;\*  
 I have no good a- | part from You.”
- L** As for the saints | in the land,\*  
 they are the excellent ones,  
 in whom is all | my delight.
- C** The sorrows of those who run after another god shall | multiply;\*  
 their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out  
 or take their names | on my lips.
- L** The LORD is my chosen portion | and my cup;\*  
 You | hold my lot.
- C** The lines have fallen for me in pleasant | places;\*  
 indeed, I have a beautiful in- | heritance.
- L** I bless the LORD who gives me | counsel;\*  
 in the night also my heart in- | structs me.
- C** I have set the LORD always be- | fore me;\*  
 because He is at my right hand, I shall not be | shaken.
- L** Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being re- | joices;\*  
 my flesh also | dwells secure.
- C** For You will not abandon my soul | to Sheol,\*  
 or let Your holy one see cor- | ruption.
- You make known to me the | path of life;\*  
 in Your presence there is fullness of joy;  
 at Your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.
- C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
 and to the Holy | Spirit;  
 as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

### 337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending



1 The night will soon be end - ing; The dawn can -  
 2 The One whom an - gels tend - ed Comes near, a  
 3 The earth in sure ro - ta - tion Will soon bring  
 4 Yet nights will bring their sad - ness And rob our  
 5 God dwells with us in dark - ness And makes the



not be far. Let songs of praise as - cend - ing Now  
 child, to serve; Thus God, the judge of - fend - ed, Bears  
 morn - ing bright, So run where God's sal - va - tion Glows  
 hearts of peace, And sin in all its mad - ness A -  
 night as day; Yet we re - sist the bright - ness And



greet the Morn - ing Star! All you whom dark - ness  
 all our sins de - serve. The guilt - y need not  
 in a sta - ble's light. As old as sin's per -  
 round us may in - crease. But now one Star is  
 turn from God a - way. But grace does not for -



fright - ens With guilt or grief or pain, God's ra - diant  
 cow - er, For God has rec - on - ciled Through His re -  
 ver - sion Is mer - cy's vast de - sign: God brings a  
 beam - ing Whose rays have pierced the night: God comes for  
 sake us, How - ev - er far we run. God claims us



Star now bright - ens And bids you sing a - gain.  
 demp - tive pow - er All those who trust this child.  
 new cre - a - tion—This child its seal and sign.  
 our re - deem - ing From sin's op - pres - sive might.  
 still as chil - dren Through Mar - y's in - fant Son.

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## Readings

### Reading

*Matthew 3:13–17*

**L** A reading from Matthew, the third chapter.

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Reading

Romans 6:1–11

**L** A reading from Romans, the sixth chapter.

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Responsory (Advent)

LSB 230



**L** 1 Behold, the days  
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise  
up for David a righteous Branch.  
2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will  
dwell securely.  
3 Glory be to the  
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

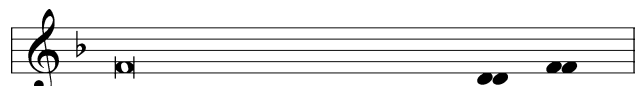


**C** This is the name  
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

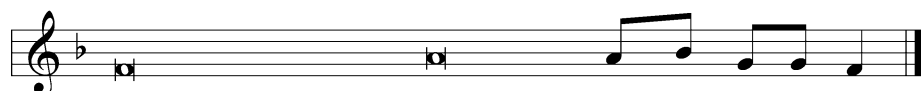
## Sermon

## Canticle

Stand



**L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,



**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

## 933 My Soul Rejoices



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the  
 great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He  
 fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion  
 bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
 halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the  
 ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
 wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the  
 sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
 to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring  
 Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
 God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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*Sit*

**Offering**

**Prayer**

*Stand*

**Kyrie**

LSB 233



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

**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.**

### Collects



**L** O Lord, hear my prayer.



**C** And let my cry come to You.

### Collect of the Day

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Collect

**P** God of life, into this death-marred world You bring life through Jesus, the resurrection and the life. Fill us with the life of Jesus, so that, in this world so often filled with darkness, our lives may shine forth His life and hope; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Collect for Peace

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Stand*

### Benedicamus

*LSB 234*



**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God  
 and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.

**C** A - - men.

349 Hark the Glad Sound

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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Announcements

**Advent Dinners and Services** are Wednesday, Dec 16. Light meal at 6:30pm. Vespers Service at 7pm.

**Christmas Services:** **Candlelight Christmas Eve** on the 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm,  
**Christmas Day Divine Service** on the 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

**Adult Sunday School** is studying the Jesse Tree for Advent.

The **Ladies Bible Study** is studying Leviticus on Wednesdays at 10am.

**Church Council** will next meet, **Jan 10**, at 8am.

**Electronic Giving** is now available through the church website: [HolyCrossCanton.com](http://HolyCrossCanton.com)

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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