

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Midweek of Advent 2

December 8, 2021

Vespers

As We Gather

We often imagine that God's presence is made known through our feelings, but God has a history of showing His presence in more concrete ways. Throughout Scripture, He attaches Himself to places like Sinai or the tabernacle or the temple or the flesh and blood of His only-begotten Son. Today, we recall how God manifested His presence to His people in the mystery of the cloud and thereby assured them that He was with them and would fulfill His promise never to abandon them. Advent reminds us that at many times and in many ways, God spoke to His people of old, but now, He has spoken through His Son. In Christ, God tabernacles with us and continues to deliver to us the fruits of His saving work on the cross.

SERIES HYMN O Great I Am, Almighty Word



1 O great I AM, al - might - y Word, Whose sav - ing
2 Ap - pear - ing in a bush of flame, You called on
3 You dwelt a - midst the wan - d'ring band And led them
4 You chose the weak and gave them might To con - quer
5 O Word In - car - nate, Christ of God, Par - tak - er



deeds were seen and heard A - mong Your peo - ple
Mo - ses to pro - claim De - liv'r - ance from cap -
to the Prom - ised Land; Your pres - ence hov - ered,
in the mor - tal fight, Then took on flesh to
of our flesh and blood, Be in our midst and



Is - ra - el, Come now to us, and ev - er dwell.
tiv - i - ty And lead Your peo - ple through the sea.
as a cloud, Your glo - ry filled the tent of God.
draw our breath, Meek child, yet vic - tor o - ver death.
al - ways dwell As Sav - ior, Lord, Im - man - u - el.

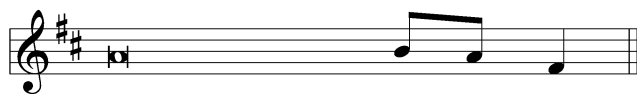
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Stand

L O Lord, open my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.

C 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 105:1–11, 39–42; antiphon: vv. 7–8

- P** He is the | LORD our God;*
 His judgments are in | all the earth.
 He remembers His covenant for- | ever,*
 the word that He commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.
- C** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call up- | on His name;*
 make known His deeds among the | peoples!
- P** Sing to Him, sing prais- | es to Him;*
 tell of all His | wondrous works!
- C** Glory in His | holy name;*
 let the hearts of those who seek the | LORD rejoice!
- P** Seek the LORD | and His strength;*
 seek His presence con- | tinually!
- C** Remember the wondrous works that | He has done,*
 His miracles, and the judgments He | uttered,
- P** O offspring of Abraham, His | servant,*
 children of Jacob, His | chosen ones!
- C** He is the | LORD our God;*
 His judgments are in | all the earth.
- P** He remembers His covenant for- | ever,*
 the word that He commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations,
- C** the covenant that He made with | Abraham,*
 His sworn promise to | Isaac,
- P** which He confirmed to Jacob as a | statute,*
 to Israel as an everlasting covenant, | saying,
- C** “To you I will give the land of | Canaan*
 as your portion for an in- | heritance.”
- P** He spread a cloud for a | covering,*
 and fire to give | light by night.
- C** They asked, and He | brought quail,*
 and gave them bread from heaven in a- | bundance.
- P** He opened the rock, and water | gushed out,*
 it flowed through the desert like a | river.
- C** For He remembered His holy | promise,*
 and Abraham, His | servant.
- 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.

P He is the | LORD our God;*
 His judgments are in | all the earth.
 He remembers His covenant for- | ever,*
 the word that He commanded, for a thousand gener- | ations.

Sit

834 O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth

1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth, Thy liv - ing
 2 Our fa - tal will to e - qual Thee, Our reb - el
 3 Thou cam - est to our hall of death, O Christ, to
 △ 4 O Spir - it, who didst once re - store Thy Church that

fin - ger nev - er wrote That life should be an aim -
 will wrought death and night. We seized and used in pride -
 breathe our poi - soned air, To drink for us the dark
 it might be a - gain The bring - er of good news

less mote, A death - ward drift from fu - tile birth.
 ful spite Thy won - drous gift of lib - er - ty.
 de - spair That stran - gled our re - luc - tant breath.
 to men, Breathe on Thy clo - ven Church once more,

Thy Word meant life tri - um - phant hurled In splen - dor through
 We housed us in this house of doom, Where death had roy -
 How beau - ti - ful the feet that trod The road that leads
 That in these gray and lat - ter days There may be those

Thy bro - ken world. Since light a - woke and life be - gan,
 al scope and room, Un - til Thy ser - vant, Prince of Peace,
 us back to God! How beau - ti - ful the feet that ran
 whose life is praise, Each life a high dox - ol - o - gy

Thou hast de - sired Thy life for man.
 Breached all its walls for our re - lease.
 To bring the great good news to man!
 To Fa - ther, Son, and un - to Thee.

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Readings

Reading

Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38

P A reading from Exodus, chapter 40.

¹⁷In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected.
¹⁸Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. ¹⁹And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁰He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. ²¹And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

³⁴Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

John 1:14–18

P A reading from John, chapter 1.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Advent)

LSB 230

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.

Sermon

The Lord Sets Up His Tent Among Us

Canticle

Stand

L Let my prayer rise before You as incense,



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

934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
 2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
 3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
 4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y

leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
 maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
 those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
 leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -

gard, And I am blest for time to come.
 light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
 tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
 el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

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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

P O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Blessed Lord, You made Yourself known in many and various ways in the days of old, but now in Your Son, You have fulfilled Your promise to dwell among Your people as Savior and Redeemer, calling us to new life in His name. Grant to us Your Holy Spirit that we may rejoice in Your presence, be moved to repentance and faith, and remember our Savior, whose voice speaks in Your Word and whose gracious acts continue to fill us with Your grace in the Holy Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

Benedicamus

LSB 234

L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 234

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



C A - men.

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

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Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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