

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Midweek of Advent 1

November 30, 2022

Vespers

As We Gather

Cain: Just as God’s people of old waited with faith in the coming Messiah, so is our Advent anticipation of Christmas, as we sing of the Savior, “Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart’s delight!” (LSB 334:1). Our hopes and fears are real. They can distract us from God’s promises. God’s promise was from the beginning spoken to Adam and Eve. Salvation would come through the woman’s offspring (Genesis 3:15). But it would not be Cain, the son of Adam, nor Ishmael, the son of Abraham, nor Absalom, the son of David. The true Son of Adam and Abraham and David is the Son of God. Our attention and faith thus direct our hopes and fears to God’s Son, in whom we receive adoption as sons and daughters in the family of God.

334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart’s de - light!
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

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.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text and tune: Public domain

6 He comes to judge the nations,
 A terror to His foes,
 A light of consolations
 And blessèd 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.

Stand



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.
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 9:1–12; antiphon: Psalm 146:3, 5

- P** Put not your trust in | princes,*
 in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.
 Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*
 whose hope is in the | LORD his God.
- C** **I will give thanks to the LORD with my | whole heart;***
I will recount all of Your won- | derful deeds.
- P** I will be glad and ex- | ult in You;*
 I will sing praise to Your name, | O Most High.
- C** **When my enemies | turn back,***
they stumble and perish before Your | presence.
- P** For You have maintained my | just cause;*
 You have sat on the throne, giving righteous | judgment.
- C** **You have rebuked the nations; You have made the wicked | perish;***
You have blotted out their name forever and | ever.

P The enemy came to an end in everlasting ruins;
 their cities You | rooted out;*
 the very memory of them has | perished.

C **But the LORD sits enthroned for- | ever;***
He has established His throne for | justice,

P and He judges the world with | righteousness;*
 He judges the peoples with up- | rightness.

C **The LORD is a stronghold for | the oppressed,***
a stronghold in times of | trouble.

P And those who know Your name put their | trust in You,*
 for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who | seek You.

C **Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in | Zion!***
Tell among the peoples | His deeds!

P For He who avenges blood is mind- | ful of them;*
 He does not forget the cry of the af- | flicted.

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 Put not your trust in | princes,*
 in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.
 Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*
 whose hope is in the | LORD his God.

Sit

In This Precious Baby Boy

Lisa M. Clark

DIX
 Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

1 In this pre-cious ba-by boy, We are giv-en
 2 God's own chil-dren, we have strayed, Con-stant-ly have
 3 Through this ba-by in the hay, God has giv-en

peace and joy. By the Spir-it, hope is won—
 dis-o-beyed In the gar-den, in the sand,
 us the Way To in-her-it life a-bove,

Mar-y bore the Fa-ther's Son. Son of God and
 Through the riv-er, in the Land. But the Child who
 Res-cued by His per-fect love. In this Child, we

Son of Man: He ful-fills the ho-ly plan.
 takes our place Bears the cross to earn us grace.
 all may be Chil-dren of e-ter-ni-ty.

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Readings

Reading

Genesis 4:1–16

L A reading from Genesis, chapter 4.

¹Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” ²And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker

of the ground. ³In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” ¹⁰And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” ¹³Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. ¹⁶Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Romans 5:12–17

L A reading from Romans, chapter 5.

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Matthew 5:17–26

L A reading from Matthew, chapter 5.

¹⁷[Jesus said:] “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

²¹“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ ²²But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. ²³So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Advent)



- L** 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a righ-teous Branch.
2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell se - cure - ly.
3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



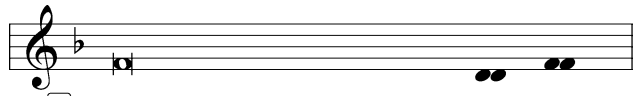
- C** This is the name
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righ-teous-ness.

Sermon

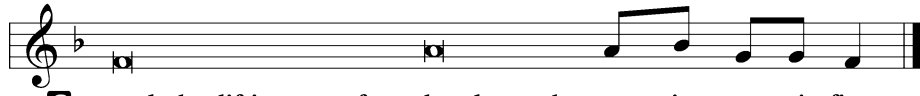
This Is My Son: Cain

Canticle

Stand



- L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



- C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

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



- bles - sing, 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!

Sit

Offering

433 *Glory Be to Jesus sts. 1–3*

Prayer

Stand

Kyrie

LSB 233

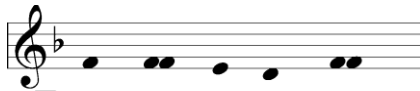


C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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.

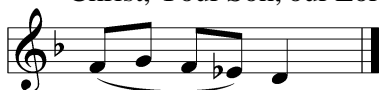
Collect of the Day

P Almighty God, from the very beginning, You promised to send a Savior from sin and death into the world, to redeem us all to be Your true children. Direct the eyes of our faith away from all false hopes and fix them on Your true and only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for Peace

L 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 IHC Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



G A - men.

572 In the Shattered Bliss of Eden



1 In the shat - tered bliss of E - den Dawned the
2 Days and months and years un - fold - ing Clear - ly
3 What these sac - ri - fic - es prom - ised From a
4 Lamb of God, once slain for sin - ners, Host, who



day of sac - ri - fice, As our pri - mal par - ents
showed what sin had wrought: Fall - en Ad - am's chil - dren
God who sought to bless, Came at last— a sec - ond
spreads this meal di - vine, Here You pledge our sins are



shud - dered— Sin had caused this dread - ful price!
learn - ing Les - sons fall - en par - ents taught.
Ad - am— Priest and King of Righ - teous - ness:
cov - ered, Pledge re - ceived in bread and wine:



Faith em - barked with this dis - cern - ment: On - ly
All these sac - ri - fi - cial of - f'ings Crest - ed
Son of God, in - car - nate Sav - ior, Son of
"Take and eat; this is My bod - y, Giv - en



God can cov - er sin, As He took their leaf - y
as a crim - son flood: Pa - tri - archs and priests a -
Man, both Christ and Lord, Who in na - ked shame would
on the cross for you. Take and drink; this cup of



gar - ments And He clothed their shame with skin.
ton - ing For their sins with cleans - ing blood.
of - fer On the cross His blood out - poured.
bless - ing Is My blood poured out for you."

5 Taste and see the bliss of heaven
Known by saints around the throne,
Where the Lamb, in closest union,
Lives to love and feed His own.
From His riven side forever
Flows the purest stream of love,
Love that robes us with the raiment
Worn by all who feast above.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Tune: Public domain

6 Gone the bliss of Eden's garden,
Gone the age of sacrifice;
Ours the time of grace and favor,
Ours the call to paradise!
Ever, Lord, impress upon us:
Only You can cover sin—
Take our worthless, self-made garments;
Clothe our shame and cleanse within.

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is studying “How we got the Bible” at **9am** on Sunday mornings.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am**. They are studying the Book of Deuteronomy.

Church Council next meeting is **Dec 11** at **8am**. The semiannual **Voters' Assembly** is after service.

Midweek Advent Services are **Nov 30, Dec 7, & Dec 14**. There will be a light meal on Wednesday nights at **6:30pm**, followed by Vespers at **7pm**.

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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