



✠ **Holy Cross Lutheran Church** ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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First Midweek in Advent

December 4, 2024

Vespers LSB 229

As We Gather

The first week of the Advent season starts the time that is referred to as the festival half of the Church Year. Between now and the final week of the Easter season, we will follow the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, from now, when we await His coming as a baby in Bethlehem, to the time when He physically leaves the earth at His ascension and then His disciples begin the new era of life in the church as it takes form in Jerusalem and beyond. It is a time for praise! A Danish hymn from around 1600 calls out to us as the church: “O Bride of Christ, Rejoice!” It closes each stanza with an address to our Advent Lord: “Hosanna, praise, and glory! Our King, we bow before Thee” (*LSB* 335). May the beginning of this new Church Year resound with our joyful praise that continues through Christmas and well beyond!

335 O Bride of Christ, Rejoice



1 O bride of Christ, re - joice; Ex - ul - tant raise thy voice
2 Let shouts of glad - ness rise Tri - um - phant to the skies.
3 A hum - ble beast He rides, Yet as a King pre - sides;
4 The weak and tim - id find How meek He is and kind;
5 Then go thy Lord to meet; Strew palm leaves at His feet;



To hail the day of glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Now comes the King most glo - rious To reign o'er all vic - to - rious.
Though not ar - rayed in splen - dor, He makes the grave sur - ren - der.
To them He gives a trea - sure Of bliss be - yond all mea - sure.
Thy gar - ments spread be - fore Him And hon - or and a - dore Him.



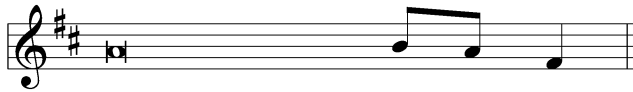
Ho - san - na, praise, and glo - ry! Our King, we bow be - fore Thee.

Text: Danish, c. 1600; tr. Victor O. Petersen, 1864-1929, alt.
Tune: Der Bussfertige Sünder, 1679, Nürnberg
Text and tune: Public domain

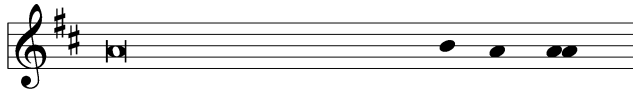
Stand



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

Psalms

Psalm 146:1-2, 5-6, 7b-8, 10

P Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

C I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

C who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever.

P The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

C The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!

Sit

Office Hymn

936 Sing Praise to the God of Israel



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
 2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on
 3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His
 4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
 oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:
 way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,
 lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - pish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
 Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -
 His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and
 And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!
 liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.
 grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.
 foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842

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Tune: Public domain

Readings

Reading

Exodus 15:1–3

R A reading from Exodus, chapter 15.

¹Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,

“I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;

the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

²The LORD is my strength and my song,

and he has become my salvation;

this is my God, and I will praise him,

my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

³The LORD is a man of war;

the LORD is his name.

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Ephesians 5:15–21

R A reading from Ephesians, chapter 5.

¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life † everlasting. Amen.

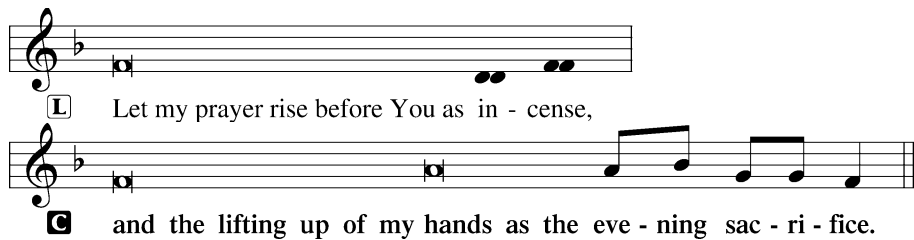
Sit

Sermon

The Song of Zechariah

Canticle

Stand



Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,
 and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

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.

Text: Luke 1:46-55; adapt. Stephanie K. Frey, 1952
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219
 Tune: Public domain

Sit

Offering

386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice st. 1

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 Father, by the advent of Your Son into the world, the kingdom of heaven now is open to all who believe in Him. Give us grace to receive the Lord Jesus as our Emmanuel, God with us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, inspire our praises in this season of blessed expectation. Lead us joyfully to serve Jesus, our Advent King, in our daily lives, so that when He comes again on the Last Day in power and majesty we may, by Your mercy, be gathered into Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our King.

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



L Let us bless the Lord.

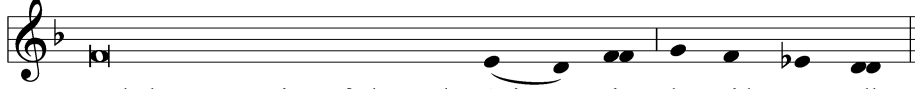


C Thanks be to God.

Benediction



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.

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
 rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
 ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
 vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
 all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Announcements

Adult Sunday School at **9am** on Sunday mornings is studying Deuteronomy.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets on Wednesdays at **10am**, studying the book of 2 Kings.

Church Council next meeting is **Dec 8** at **8am**.

Semiannual **Voters' Assembly** is **Dec 8** after service, voting on the 2025 budget and Lay Delegate.

Midweek Advent Services are **Dec 4, 11, 18** with a light meal at 6:30pm and service at 7pm.

Men's' Breakfast and Bible Study will begin Sat. **Dec 7** at **9am** in the Fellowship Hall.

Let Pastor Huston or Charlie Padon know if you would like to volunteer as our **Lay Delegate** for the Texas District Convention **June 5-7, 2025** in Houston.

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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