

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Second Midweek in Advent

December 11, 2024

Vespers LSB 229

As We Gather

A word used in many of the hymns of the Advent and Christmas season is “glory.” Both people and angels give glory to God in response to the fulfillment of the promised birth of the Savior. Glory is associated with the presence of God throughout the Scriptures. In Exodus, Moses records, “The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it” (Exodus 24:16) and in the Book of Revelation, a vision of the heavenly Jerusalem is shared with these words: “And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb” (Revelation 21:23). God has great glory and continues to share it with His people—including us! In his Advent hymn text “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers,” Laurentius Laurenti, a noted Danish-German musical educator born in 1660, calls God’s people His “heirs of glory” who are finally to be gathered “around the throne of glory” in God’s eternal kingdom (LSB 515:2–3). Filled with hope and expectation, we respond to that Advent call!

515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



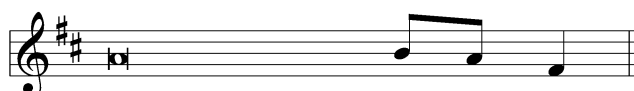
Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.
Tune: Swedish
Text and tune: Public domain

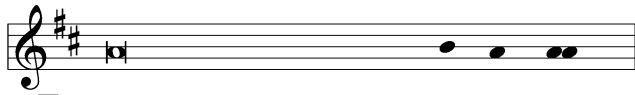
Stand



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.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalms 108:1-6

P My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!

C Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!

P I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.

C For Your steadfast love is great above the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

P Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Your glory be over all the earth!

C That Your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by Your right hand and answer me!

Sit

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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven
Text and tune: Public domain

Readings

Reading

2 Chronicles 29:25–30

R A reading from 2 Chronicles, chapter 29.

²⁵And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king’s seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the LORD through his prophets. ²⁶The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets. ²⁷Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song to the LORD began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel. ²⁸The whole assembly worshiped, and the singers sang and the trumpeters sounded. All this continued until the burnt offering was finished. ²⁹When the offering was finished, the king and all who were present with him bowed themselves and worshiped. ³⁰And Hezekiah the king and the officials commanded the Levites to sing praises to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshiped.

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

1 Peter 4:7–11

R A reading from 1 Peter, chapter 4.

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Reading

Luke 1:39–45

P A reading from Luke, chapter 1.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

P 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 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.

Apostles' Creed

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
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.

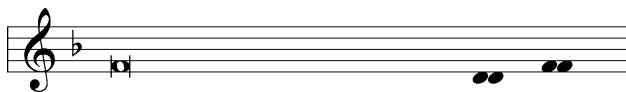
Sit

Sermon

The Song of Elizabeth

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.

935 Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of His Word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings, give my spir - it voice;
 Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
 Pow'rs and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is His prom - ise, and His mer - cy sure.



Ten - der to me the prom - ise of His Word;
 His mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord



In God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - joice.
 His ho - ly name, the Lord, the Might - y One.
 The hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 To chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926-2024
 Tune: Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949
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Sit

Offering

352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord sts. 1-2

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 O Jesus, Sun of Righteousness, may Your divine glory enlighten us with the brightness of Your coming. Teach us Your ways, O Lord, that we may grow in true wisdom and may reflect Your glory into our darkened world until that day when, by Your grace, we come to the glorious inheritance that You have prepared for those who love You. In Your blessed name we pray.

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.

Benediction

LSB 234



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.

346 When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na-tion,
2 Be-fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy-ful meet-ing,
3 Be-hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres-sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic-ing,



Saint John the Bap-tist came With words of con-so-la-tion.
Con-fess-ing Him as Lord Whose moth-er he was greet-ing.
Whose sac-ri-fice re-moves The dev-il's dread op-pres-sion.
The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re-pen-tance voic-ing,



With true fore-run-ner's zeal The great-er One he named,
By Jor-dan's roll-ing stream, A new E-li-jah bold,
Be-hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a-way our sin,
That glad-ly we may walk Up-on our Sav-ior's way



And Him, as yet un-known, As Sav-ior he pro-claimed.
He tes-ti-fied of Him Of whom the proph-ets told:
Who for our peace and joy Will full a-tone-ment win.
Un-til we live with Him In His e-ter-nal day.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.
Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701
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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 **Jan 12 at 8am**.

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is **Dec 24 at 6pm**. **Christmas Day Divine Service** is **Dec 25 at 10am**.

Dec 30 is a **Fifth Sunday!** Get your hymn ideas to Pastor Huston by Dec 22.

Men's' Breakfast and Bible Study is next Sat. **Jan 11 at 9am** in the Fellowship Hall.

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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