

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Third Midweek in Advent

December 18, 2024

Vespers LSB 229

As We Gather

The weeks of Advent are a time for faithful listening. For centuries before the coming of Jesus, specially chosen messengers of God brought hope to God’s people with words of encouragement. An often-heard prophetic voice is that of Isaiah, who told of the fulfillment of God’s promises to His faithful people. In chapter 12 of Isaiah, we hear the prophet exclaim: “Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation” (12:2). As the season of Advent progresses, we hear more and more voices announcing that God’s plan of salvation is being fulfilled. John the Baptist calls out in the wilderness, telling us to repent of our sins as we prepare for the coming of the Savior. With Mary, we hear the message of the angel Gabriel, announcing that God is coming in person and that His coming will be a great blessing to all people. With joyful anticipation, we listen for the message of the coming salvation and respond with songs of praise.

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.

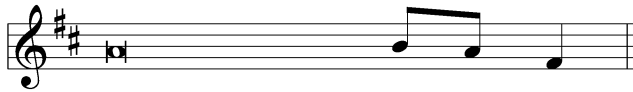
5 Sin’s debt, that fearful burden,
Cannot His love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring
The peace of sin forgiv’n,
His children thus securing
Eternal life in heav’n.

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.

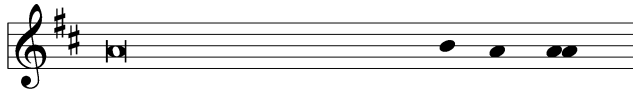
Stand



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 27:1, 4, 7–8, 13–14

P ¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

C ⁴One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.

P ⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

C ⁸You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, do I seek.”

P ¹³I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

C ¹⁴Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Sit

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!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622

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Tune: Public domain

Readings

Reading

R A reading from Daniel, chapter 7.

Daniel 7:13–14

¹³I saw in the night visions,

and behold, with the clouds of heaven
there came one like a son of man,
and he came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before him.

¹⁴And to him was given dominion
and glory and a kingdom,
that all peoples, nations, and languages
should serve him;
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
which shall not pass away,

and his kingdom one
that shall not be destroyed.

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Colossians 3:12–17

R A reading from Colossians, chapter 3.

¹²Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Reading

Luke 1:46–56

P A reading from Luke, chapter 1.

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

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.

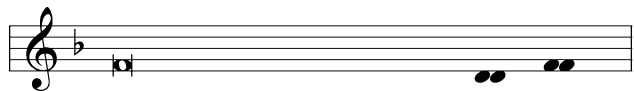
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Sermon

The Song of Mary

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.

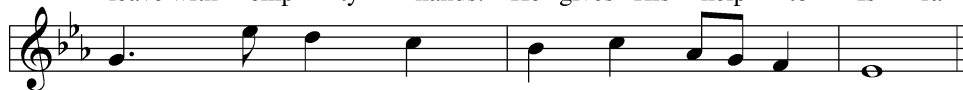
934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



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

546 O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild 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 whose Son into the world the kingdom of heaven is open to all who believe in Him: grant us Your Holy Spirit so that we may believe in Him with our whole heart and so serve Him in our daily lives, that when He comes again we may, together with Mary, our Lord's mother; the prophets of old; and all of the faithful, by Your mercy be gathered together into the Kingdom that abides eternal in the heavens; through Your mercy, O God, who lives and reigns forever, world without end.

C Amen.

Closing Collect

P Almighty God, Judge and King, when the time had fully come, You sent Your Son, born of a virgin, for us and for our salvation. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace to all the places of the world where people desperately need You. Come and give us the gift of Yourself; for You live and reign with the Father 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.

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.

350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635-1711; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.
Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt
Text and tune: Public domain

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 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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