

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Midweek of Advent 1

December 3, 2025

Vespers p.229

As We Gather

During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the assurance that the Savior who came for the world once is coming again. And we do not wait alone. Together, the whole Christian Church is accompanied in this waiting by the Christ who promises to be with His people always. Jesus' mother, the virgin Mary, knows a lot about waiting. With pregnant anticipation, Mary waited *for* Jesus, the promised Messiah who would reign from David's throne forever. But Mary was always waiting *with* Jesus, the Son of the Most High nestled within her womb. Throughout this Advent, we will listen with Mary, sing with Mary, and wait with Mary. Because, on darkest days, the Christ comes as near to you as He did to Mary to wait *with* you for the glorious sunrise that's coming.

Today we shall remember Mary as God reveals who she is through His Word, not how the world and many churches describe her. And in considering Mary, we look to the One who is the reason the Bible teaches us about Mary—Jesus Christ, her Son and our Lord.

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;

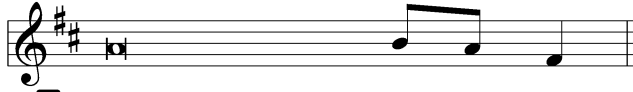


Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

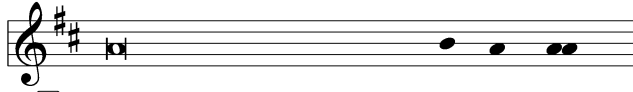
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven
Text and tune: Public domain



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 98:1-4, 8-9; antiphon: v. 1

P ¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

C ²The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*

he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

P ³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

C ⁴Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*

break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

P ⁸Let the rivers clap their hands;

let the hills sing for joy together

C ⁹be- | fore the LORD,* for he comes to | judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with | equity.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P ¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*

His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

385 From East to West

1 From east to west, from shore to shore Let ev - 'ry
 2 Be - hold, the world's cre - a - tor wears The form and
 3 For this how won - drous - ly He wrought! A maid - en,
 4 And while the an - gels in the sky Sang praise a -
 5 All glo - ry for this bless - ed morn To God the

heart a - wake and sing The ho - ly child whom
 fash - ion of a slave; Our ver - y flesh our
 in her low - ly place; Be - came, in ways be -
 above the si - lent field, To shep - herds poor the
 Fa - ther ev - er be; All praise to You, O

Mar - y bore, The Christ, the ev - er - last - ing king.
 mak - er shares, His fall - en crea - tures all to save.
 yond all thought, The cho - sen ves - sel of His grace.
 Lord Most High, The one great Shep - herd, was re - vealed.
 Vir - gin - born, And Ho - ly Ghost e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Ellerton, 1826–93, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder, 1539, Leipzig, ed. Valten Schumann
 Text and tune: Public domain

Readings

Reading

Jeremiah 33:14–18

R A reading from Jeremiah, chapter 33.

¹⁴“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

¹⁷“For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.”

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Luke 1:26–38

R A reading from Luke, chapter 1.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

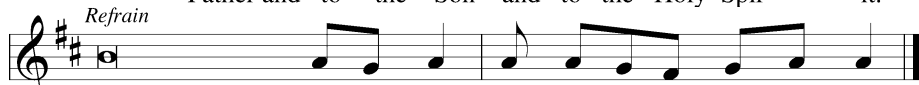
R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Advent)



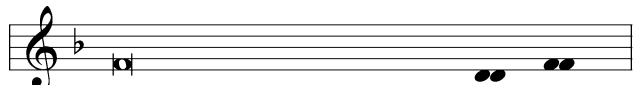
- L** 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a righ-teous Branch.
- 2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell se - cure - ly.
- 3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



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

Sermon

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



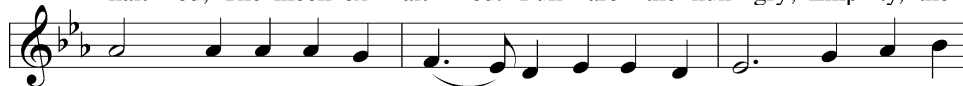
great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



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

341 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 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 God, You chose the virgin Mary to be the mother of Your only Son. Grant that we, who are redeemed by His blood, may share with her in the glory of Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect

P Son of God and Son of Mary, we trust that in Your humanity, You know the burdens we bear, and in Your divinity, You hear and answer our prayers. So we kneel before You, just as Your mother knelt beside Your manger, to praise You for Your grace and to look to You for light.

P We pray for all mothers, that they might know the honor of being called by You to lead and serve their children. Bless all who became mothers unexpectedly; protect them from discouragement and supply them with peace and patience. Send safety particularly to mothers in the middle of pregnancy; grant them equal measures of joyful anticipation and good health. Son of Mary,

C hear our prayer.

P O holy Child of Bethlehem, we pray for the hearts of Your people during this season of distraction. Give Your faithful an unwavering joy for this season and an eagerness to greet You when You come again. Make all believers lights in a dark world, that they might shine like stars with purity and hope, and in so doing, win others for Your kingdom through the power of Your Gospel. Son of David,

C hear our prayer.

P Only-begotten Son of the Father, You came as a light for all nations. Restrain evil leaders, bring an end to violence and discord, and kindle in all people a pursuit of peace and righteousness. Make us believers the first to help rather than hurt, meeting the needs of our neighbors as we have been equipped to do, so that all people might come to Your light and praise the brightness of Your rising. Son of God,

C hear our prayer.

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.



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.



374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859-1933
Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald
Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is at **9am** on Sunday mornings studying our Lutheran identity.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am** studying the Psalms.

Church Council next meeting is **Dec 14** at **8am**.

Biannual Voters' Assembly meeting is **Dec 14** at after service. We will be voting on the budget and elder.

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is Sat. **Dec 6** at **9am**.

Midweek Advent Services are Wednesday evenings at **7pm** on **Dec 3, 10, & 17**.

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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