

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Midweek of Advent 2

December 10, 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 hope 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 learn more about our Savior, Jesus, by learning about Mary's husband, Joseph. Jesus, true man, was raised and taught by a human father, Joseph, a faithful husband for Mary.

### 332 Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
God was there up - on His throne.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

6 For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546; (sts. 1-2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812-76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4-5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973  
Tune: Geistliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter  
Text (sts. 3, 6-7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4-5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219  
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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 61; antiphon: v. 2*

- P** <sup>2</sup>from the end of the earth I call to you when my | heart is faint.\*  
Lead me to the rock that is high- | er than I,  
**C** <sup>1</sup>Hear my cry, | O God,\*  
listen | to my prayer;  
**P** <sup>3</sup>for you have been my | refuge,\*  
a strong tower against the | enemy.  
**C** <sup>4</sup>Let me dwell in your tent for- | ever!\*  
Let me take refuge under the shelter | of your wings!

**P** <sup>5</sup>For you, O God, have | heard my vows;\*  
you have given me the heritage of those who | fear your name.

**C** <sup>6</sup>**Prolong the life | of the king;\***  
**may his years endure to all gener- | ations!**

**P** <sup>7</sup>May he be enthroned forever be- | fore God;\*  
appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch | over him!

**C** <sup>8</sup>**So will I ever sing praises | to your name,\***  
**as I perform my vows day | after day.**

**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** <sup>2</sup>from the end of the earth I call to you when my | heart is faint.\*  
Lead me to the rock that is high- | er than I,

Sit

## 518 By All Your Saints in Warfare

sts. 1, 22, 3

1 By all Your saints in war - fare, For  
2 We sing with joy of Mar - y, Whose  
△ 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And  
all Your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O  
heart with awe was stirred When, youth - ful and as -  
wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the  
Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest! For  
ton - ished, She heard the an - gel's word. Yet  
Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till  
You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the  
she her voice up - rais - es To mag - ni - fy God's  
all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the  
crown; And now they shine in glo - ry  
name, As once for our sal - va - tion  
throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry  
Re - flect - ed from Your throne.  
Your moth - er she be - came.  
And praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823-1913, alt.  
Tune: English; coll. and arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958  
Text: Public domain  
Tune: Public domain

## Readings

### Reading

**R** A reading from Hosea, chapter 2.

Hosea 2:18-23

<sup>18</sup>And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. <sup>19</sup>And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. <sup>20</sup>I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>“And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD,

I will answer the heavens,  
and they shall answer the earth,

<sup>22</sup>and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and they shall answer Jezreel,

<sup>23</sup>and I will sow her for myself in the land.

And I will have mercy on No Mercy,  
and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’;  
and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’”

**R** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Reading

*Matthew 1:18–25*

**R** A reading from Matthew, chapter 1.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**R** 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,

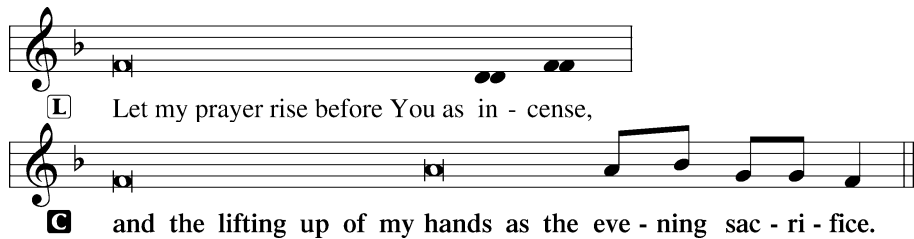
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died and was buried.  
 He descended into hell.  
 The third day He rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
 From 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

## 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.

## Magnificat

### 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

## 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 house of Your servant David You raised up Joseph to be the guardian of Your incarnate Son and the husband of His mother, Mary. Grant us grace to follow the example of this faithful workman in heeding Your counsel and obeying Your commands; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Son of David and Son of Joseph, Your arrival fulfills every promise ever made by the Lord, our God. Teach us to know You as the joy of every longing heart, that we might kneel before You, just as Your earthly guardian Joseph knelt beside Your manger, in trust that You hear our prayers and will bring us deliverance.

**P** O holy Child of Nazareth, You learned and grew in the house of a carpenter. Build every father within Your great family into an honorable man, sacrificing for the sake of their household and leading them in holiness for the sake of Your name. Particularly bless fathers who have a troubled relationship with their children; heal their hurts and bind them in kindness and love. Son of Joseph,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Incarnate Son of God, You dwelt among sawdust and splinters. Bless all those whose work is difficult and dangerous and take under Your protection all who put their hands to any useful task. Sustain the commerce and industry of this nation. Give all who work the just rewards for their labor and the knowledge that their work is a blessing in Your sight. Son of sweat and toil,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Son of heaven's splendor, You came into our world yet had no place to lay Your head. Mercifully care for the homeless, the hungry, the poor, the unemployed, the lonely, the sick, and the troubled of mind and heart. Relieve their want, provide for their livelihood, and make their needs known that Your servants might bring to them the blessings of Your hand. Son of suffering,

**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.



**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 ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



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



**C** A - men.

### 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. **Jan 10** at **9am**.

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

### Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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