

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Midweek of Advent 3

December 17, 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 turn our attention to the words of Mary in her great Magnificat, sung by the church for two millennia. Through this song, we hear the message of Jesus Christ, who has come to rescue us from our sin.

### 331 The Advent of Our King



- 1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
- 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
- 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To - meet your low - ly King,
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

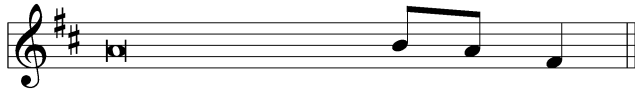
- 5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

- △ 6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

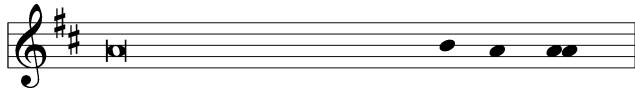
Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, alt.  
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-76  
Text and tune: Public domain



**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 85:1-4, 9-11; antiphon: v. 7*

**P** Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

**C** and grant us Your salvation.

**P** LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

**C** You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**P** You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

**C** You covered all their sin.

**P** You withdrew all Your wrath;

**C** You turned from Your hot anger.

**P** Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

**C** and put away Your indignation toward us!

**P** Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

**C** that glory may dwell in our land.

**P** Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

**C** righteousness and peace kiss each other.

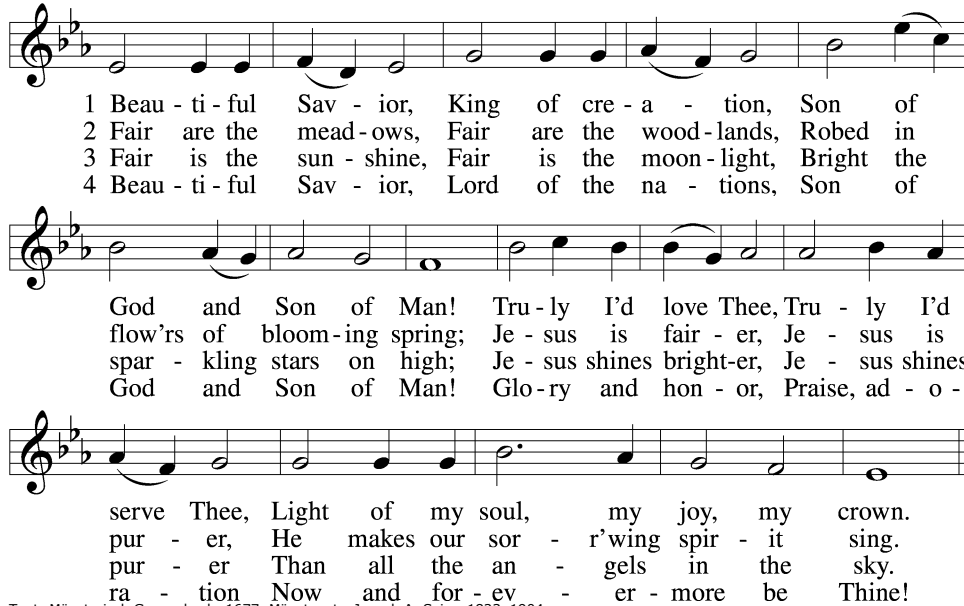
- P** Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
**C** and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**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** Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,  
**C** and grant us Your salvation.

Sit

### 537 Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of  
God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd  
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is  
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines  
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -  
serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.  
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.  
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
Tune: Silesian, 19th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Readings

### Reading

- P** A reading from Isaiah, chapter 61.

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 10–11*

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Reading

*Luke 1:39–56*

**P** A reading from Luke, chapter 1.

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

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

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

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

<sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

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

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

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

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.



## 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  
 Text: © 1962, renewed 1990 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219  
 Tune: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219

*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 Son and made known through her Your gracious regard for the poor and lowly and despised. Grant that we may receive Your Word in humility and faith, and so be made one with Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 God, You rightfully rule over all things. Our days and deeds belong to You, and we turn to You for guidance, joyfully surrendering our burdens and submitting to Your gracious will. So just as John celebrated at the sound of Your presence, we, too, rejoice that our Immanuel is with us to hear our prayers and answer us in mercy.

O promised Son of Adam, from the beginning, You have held humanity in the hope of evil's ultimate defeat. We pray for all trapped in darkness and in need of rescue. Free hearts held captive by addiction, anxiety, depression, dementia, and mental illness and liberate victims of slavery, human trafficking, ethnic warfare, and global injustice, that the humbled might be exalted by Your mighty hand. Son of deliverance,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O Promised Son of Abraham, You remember Your mercy for generations. Make our households places where faith flourishes and where grandparents, parents, children, and neighbors together witness to Your faithfulness. Inspire those preparing for Baptism, confirmation, or ministry for lifelong service in Your name, that generations yet unborn will proclaim Your righteousness. Son of remembrance,

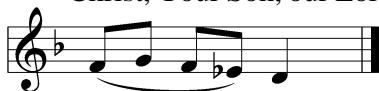
**C** hear our prayer.

**P** O Promised Son of Israel, You led the people of Your keeping through the wilderness and to the Promised Land. Safeguard all who travel during this season. Keep them alert to possible dangers and protect them from distraction. Fill their journeys with joy, then bring them home in safety, until You bring us all to the eternal promised land, prepared by Your death and resurrection. Son of our salvation,

**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.



**G** 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.



**G** 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** next meets Wednesdays Dec 31 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**.

This year's **Midweek Advent Service** is Wednesday evenings at **7pm** on **Dec 17**.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** is at **6pm** on the 24<sup>th</sup>. **Christmas Morning** Divine Service is at **10am** on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **Acknowledgments**

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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