

December 8, 2021

Midweek of Advent 2



“We Preach Christ Crucified...”

- 1 Corinthians 1:23

LUTHER MEMORIAL
CHURCH & SCHOOL K-8

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Welcome to Worship

The weeks leading up to Christmas are filled with special memories as previous holiday seasons come to mind. The Church Year time of Advent helps us to prepare for the coming of our Lord once again. As we make those preparations, not only do we look back to the first Christmas as recorded by the Gospel writers, but we also look even further back in Scripture to when the Son of God came among His people in other times and places before His wondrous birth at Bethlehem. In the Old Testament, we find the details of earlier divine visits that are part of our sacred memory, and we recall them in these holy days.

[Today's hymns are printed on pages 9-12 of the bulletin]

✠ Preparation ✠

Opening Hymn

WS 701 – Prepare the Royal Highway

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

- P** O Lord, open my lips
C and my mouth will declare your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me.
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
- 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.

Confession and Absolution

- P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P** Let us, therefore, confess our sins to God, our Father.
- C** Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.
- P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Hymn of Praise TLH 91 (1-3, 9) – Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Let the earth now praise the Lord,
 What the fa - thers most de - sired,
 A - bram's prom - ised great Re - ward,
 And when Thou dost come a - gain

Who hath tru - ly kept His word
 What the proph - ets' heart in - spired,
 Zi - on's Help - er, Ja - cob's Lord --
 As a glo - rious King to reign,

And the sin - ners' Help and Friend
 What they longed for man - y a year,
 Him of two - fold race be - hold
 I with joy may see Thy face,

Now at last to us doth send.
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 Free - ly ran - somed by Thy grace.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Almighty Father, by the advent of Your Son into the world, the kingdom of heaven now is open to all who believe in Him. Give us grace to look for the signs of His coming and to receive the Lord Jesus as our Emmanuel, God with us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, lead us evermore to serve Him in our lives until that day when He comes again to claim us as His own for eternity. This we ask in His most blessed name.

C Amen.

✠ Word ✠

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶ And in this mountain The LORD of hosts will make for all people A feast of choice pieces, A feast of wines on the lees, Of fat things full of marrow, Of well-refined wines on the lees. ⁷ And He will destroy on this mountain The surface of the covering cast over all people, And the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸ He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken. ⁹ And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 24

P The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness,

C The world and those who dwell therein.

P For He has founded it upon the seas,

C And established it upon the waters.

P Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?

C Or who may stand in His holy place?

P He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

C Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

P He shall receive blessing from the LORD,

C And righteousness from the God of his salvation.

- P** This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him,
C **Who seek Your face.**
P Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors!
C **And the King of glory shall come in.**
P Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty,
C **The LORD mighty in battle.**
P Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors!
C **And the King of glory shall come in.**
P Who is this King of glory?
C **The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.**

Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

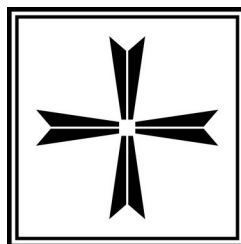
¹ “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. ⁵ “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. ⁸ By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Alleluia

- P** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!



Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn

WS 705 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Sermon Text

Exodus 3:1-14

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." ⁴ So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground." ⁶ Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. ⁷ And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. ⁸ So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. ⁹ Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰ Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹ But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹² So He said, "I will certainly be with you. And this shall be a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought

the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.”¹³ Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”¹⁴ And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”



Sermon

Old Testament Christmas

Offertory

TLH 50 st. 2

Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Thy Gos - pel's
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Thy sal - va - tion
In our hearts and lives a - bound; Ev - er faith - ful,
Ev - er faith - ful To the Truth may we be found!

Hymn

TLH 62 – Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

General Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

TLH 99 – Now Are the Days Fulfilled

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WS 701 – Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore Him; Their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

WS 705 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, O long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Your
 2 Born Your peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and
 3 By Your own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our

peo - ple free; From our sins and fears re - lease us
 yet a king, Born to reign in us for - ev - er,
 hearts a - lone; By Your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it

By Your death on Cal - va - ry.
 Now Your gra - cious king - dom bring.
 Raise us to Your glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
 Tune and Setting: John Stainer, 1840-1901

CROSS OF JESUS
 87 87

TLH 62 – Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

Is. 59 : 20

8. 8. 8. 8. 8. 8.

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

Veni, Emmanuel

Latin author unknown, c. 1100

Plain-song melody, c. 1200

Tr., John M. Neale, 1851, 1859, ab.



1 Oh, come, Oh, come, Em-man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, Thou Rod of Jes - - se, free Thine own from Sa - tan's
3 Oh, come, Thou Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by Thy
4 Oh, come, Thou Key of Da - - vid, come And o - pen wide our



Is - - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - - ile here Un -
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save And
draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night And
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high And



til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
death's dark shad - ows put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -



man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el.
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el. A-men.



TLH 99 – Now Are the Days Fulfilled

Gal. 4: 4

6. 7. 6. 7. 6. 6. 6. 6.

Nun ist die Zeit erfüllt

Author unknown, 1746

Tr., Frederick W. Herzberger, †1930, alt.

Was frag' ich nach der Welt

Ahasverus Fritsch, 1679

1 Now are the days ful-filled, God's Son is man-i - fest - ed,
2 Now are the days ful-filled, Lo, Ja-cob's Star is shin - ing;
3 Now are the days ful-filled, The child of God re-joic - es;

Now His great maj-es - ty In hu-man flesh is vest - ed.
The gloom-y night has fled Where-in the world lay pin - ing.
No bond-age of the Law, No curs-es that it voic - es,

Be - hold the might-y God, By whom all wrath is stilled,
Now, Is - rael, look on Him Who long thy heart hath thrilled;
Can fill our hearts with fear; On Christ our hope we build.

The wom-an's prom-ised Seed— Now are the days ful-filled.
Hear Zi-on's watch-men cry: Now are the days ful-filled.
Be - hold the Prince of Peace— Now are the days ful-filled. A - men.