

## Our Dear Christ Enters In

### Week 3: Baby Names

*You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. Luke 1:31*

#### Invocation

P We worship in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

#### 343 Prepare the Royal Highway

- 1 Prepare the royal highway, the King of kings is near;  
Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear.  
Then greet the king of glory foretold in sacred story:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!
- 2 God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king;  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too should bring.  
All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!
- 4 His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.  
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding:  
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!

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#### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P Beloved in the Lord, as we draw closer to Christmas, may this wreath remind us that Jesus came to conquer the darkness of our sin and lead us into the light of his glorious kingdom, as the prophet Isaiah declares,
- C **“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shone.”**

*(Two purple candles and 1 pink candle are lit on the Advent wreath.)*

- P Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, the true Light who comes into the world to enlighten all peoples, bless us as we light the candles on this wreath in preparation for your coming. Enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love so that we may reflect your love to all—especially to those who are still walking in spiritual darkness around us; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

#### Confession & Absolution (from Isaiah 55:6-7)

- P Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
C **call upon him while he is near;**  
P let the wicked forsake his way,  
C **and the unrighteous man his thoughts;**  
P let him return to the Lord,  
C **that he may have compassion on him,**  
P and to our God,  
C **for he will abundantly pardon.**

*(Silently reflect on these words and our need for his forgiveness.)*

P Heavenly Father,

C **we come before you today with nothing to hide. You've heard everything we've said and seen everything we've done. You even probe our thoughts. You know that every day our lives are filled with disobedience, poorly chosen words and selfish ends. Forgive us for the sake of your Son, Jesus, who lived the perfect life that we could never live and sacrificed himself in our place. Amen.**

P “‘Comfort, comfort my people,’ says your God. ‘Speak tenderly to her and proclaim to her: ‘Your sins have been paid for’” (Isaiah 40:1-2). In his tender mercy, God has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, upon this your confession, I announce the grace of God to you. In his stead and by his command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

### 336 Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending *(\*alternate tune is used – Picardy)*

- 1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for ev'ry sinner slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, Christ the Lord returns to reign.
- 2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him robed in glorious majesty;  
Those who set at naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall their true Messiah see.
- 4 Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory, claim the kingdom as thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
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### Prayer of the Day

P Dear Lord, when you were born into this world, Mary and Joseph gave you the name that was given to them by the angel—the name “Jesus.” We are truly blessed this day to be able to call you by name in our prayers, in our worship and in our speaking of your salvation to those around us in our homes and in this church. Remind us every day that your name means “He saves,” and help us to remember that you have called each of us by name to follow you. Amen.

### Children's Sermon

#### Reading

*Isaiah 7:10–17*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

## Reading

Acts 4:5–12

<sup>5</sup>On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, <sup>9</sup>if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, <sup>10</sup>let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. <sup>11</sup>This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. <sup>12</sup>And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

## Reading

Luke 1:26–38

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

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

<sup>35</sup>And 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. <sup>36</sup>And 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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And 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.

## 524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

- 1    How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer’s ear!  
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away our fear.
- 2    It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the troubled breast;  
’Tis manna to the hungry soul, and to the weary, rest.
- 4    O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, my Prophet, Priest and King,  
My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, accept the praise I bring.
- 5    How weak the effort of my heart, how cold my warmest thought;  
But when I see you as you are, I’ll praise you as I ought.
- 6    Till then I would your love proclaim with ev’ry fleeting breath;  
And may the music of your name refresh my soul in death.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.  
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## Sermon

### 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

- 1    What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry ev’rything to God in prayer!  
O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry ev’rything to God in prayer!

- 2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness—take it to the Lord in prayer!
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—take it to the Lord in prayer!  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86  
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### **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.**

**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.**

### **Offering**

**Prayers** (*Each petition concludes with the following response*)

**P** Jesus, name above all names  
**C** look with favor upon us.

### **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.**

### **Benediction (2 Thessalonians 3:16)**

P Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

C Amen.

### **338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

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