



Mid-Week Advent Service
December 2, 2020
Grace Lutheran Church
800 East Silver Lake Drive
Rochester, MN 55906

Jesus, the Seed of Jesse's Tree

As We Gather

Advent means “coming.” As the largest of trees begin with a seed, so it is with God’s promise to save the world from sin and death. Salvation is coming. After the fall, God promised that the fruit of Adam and Eve would one day be wounded, yet He would crush the head of sin and death. From that seed of a promise sprouted numerous signposts of the Coming One: the promise to Abraham and Sarah, the crossing of the Red Sea, the prophets declaring that out of the stump of Jesse would sprout a Savior. The seed of salvation, promised long ago, was born into the world in Jesus, His first advent. And now, during this Advent season, we await with joyful hope His second advent. Jesus, the Seed, has been planted in a tomb and sprouted forth to new life, filling us with hope as we wait, watch, and prepare for Jesus’ second advent.

LSB 342

What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

- 1 What hope! An Eden prophesied
Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side,
Led by a little child!
- 2 A shoot will sprout from Jesse’s stem,
A branch from David’s line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:
The fruit of God’s design.

- 3 As banner of God's love unfurled,
Christ came to suffer loss,
That by His death a dying world
Would rally to the cross.
- 4 Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,
Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword—
Come, open heaven's door.

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Stand

- 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.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 126; antiphon: v. 5

- P** Those who | sow in tears*
shall reap with | shouts of joy!
- C** When the LORD restored the fortunes of | Zion,*
we were like | those who dream.
- P** Then our mouth was filled with | laughter,*
and our tongue with | shouts of joy;
- C** then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great | things for them.”*
The LORD has done great things for us; | we are glad.
- P** Restore our fortunes, | O LORD,*
like streams in the | Negeb!
- C** Those who | sow in tears*
shall reap with | shouts of joy!
- P** He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for | sowing,*
Shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his | sheaves with him.
- C** Those who | sow in tears*
shall reap with | shouts of joy!
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

LSB 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

sts. 1, 5

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!

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Readings

First Reading

Genesis 1:27; 3:8–15

P A reading from Genesis, the first and third chapters.

²⁷So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 5:12–21

P A reading from Romans, the fifth chapter.

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous. ²⁰Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, ²¹so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Advent)

LSB 230

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Sermon

Catechesis

P What do the Scriptures teach about Christ’s conception?

C They teach that Christ, the Son of God, received a true human body and soul in the Virgin Mary through the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, not through a human father.

P Where is this in Scripture?

C Luke 1:35, “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.”

Canticle

Stand

P Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

- 1 My soul rejoices,
 My spirit voices—
 Sing the greatness of the Lord!
 For God my Savior
 Has shown me favor—
 Sing the greatness of the Lord!
 With praise and blessing,
 Join in confessing
 God, who is solely
 Mighty and holy—
 O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
 His mercy surely
 Shall rest securely
 On all who fear Him,
 Love and revere Him—
 O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
- 2 His arm now baring,
 His strength declaring—
 Sing the greatness of the Lord!
 The proud He scatters,
 Their rule He shatters—
 Sing the greatness of the Lord!
 Oppression halted;
 The meek exalted.
 Full are the hungry;
 Empty, the wealthy—
 O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
 Here is the token
 All that was spoken
 To Abr'ham's offspring
 God is fulfilling—
 O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

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Sit

Offering

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie

LSB 233

- ☩** Lord, have mercy;
 Christ, have mercy;
 Lord, have mercy.

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

P O Lord, hear my prayer.
C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Collect of Intercession

P Gracious Father, You promised long ago a Savior to overcome sin and death, and You fulfilled that promise in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Fill us with hope as we await Christ's return, which will bring the seed of Your promise to full fruition, that our lives may show forth the joy of trusting in You; 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 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 Amen.

Stand

Benedicamus

LSB 234

P Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 234

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

LSB 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

sts. 1, 4–6

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

- 4 As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.

- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

- 6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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