

## ***First Wednesday in Advent***

DECEMBER 3, 2025

5:00 and 7:00 p.m.

*Advent is the season of holy anticipation. Christ arrives in three ways: He came in humility at Bethlehem. He now comes in Word and Sacrament. He will come again in glory. Each week, we live in eager expectation, moved to sing with shepherds and the saints: Behold your King's arrival, rich with grace on grace.*

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### THE WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPENING PRAYER

#### THE OPENING HYMN

##### ***What Child Is This***

LSB #370

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!
2. Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary!
3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

#### THE INVOCATION

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

#### THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: *Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.*  
C: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.  
P: *By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.*  
C: Amen.

## THE SONG RESPONSE

### *King's Arrival*

Shepherds ran with awe and wonder, left their fields to go and see.  
And when they found Him in the manger, a humble child,  
Bowed their heads and bent their knees.

*Chorus: Behold, your King's arrival, rich with grace on grace,  
Real and present Savior here to meet us face to face.*

Here and now, this room, He's present, bringing gifts to all His saints.  
Simple things like word and water, and bread and wine  
Miracles in commonplace. *Chorus*

Someday soon the sky will peel back. He'll be coming on the clouds  
Ending all injustice, sin and suffering  
Bodies raised with trumpet sound; bodies raised with trumpet sound!  
(Chorus; ending with) *Real and present Savior here to meet us face to face.*

## THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-5

*P: Comfort, comfort my people,*  
*C: says your God.*  
*P: Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned,*  
*C: that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.*  
*P: A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;*  
*C: make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*  
*P: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;*  
*C: the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.*  
*P: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,*  
*C: and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

## THE EPISTLE

Philippians 2:1-8

<sup>1</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,

being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

<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.

THE CONFESSION OF FAITH *The Second Article and Meaning*

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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

*What does this mean?* I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

THE ADVENT OFFERING

Musical Offering

*The First Noel*

Organ-Piano Duet

THE PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SERMON HYMN

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

LSB #366

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:

“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from heav’n’s all-gracious King.”

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

3. All you, beneath your heavy load, by care and guilt bent low,  
Who toil along a dreary way with painful steps and slow:  
Look up, for golden is the hour, come swiftly on the wing,  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; of Him the angels sing.
4. For lo, the days have come to pass by prophets seen of old,  
When down into the circling years came Christ as was foretold.  
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s ancient promise bring,  
And all who take this gift will hear the song the angels sing.

THE SERMON

*“The King’s Humble Arrival”*

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN

***Silent Night, Holy Night***

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Your birth, Jesus, Lord, at Your birth.

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