

## ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE FOR WED., DECEMBER 3, 2025

### Opening Versicles

- 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.**

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P Each week in Advent, we light a candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.  
C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- P The first Advent candle is known as the prophecy candle or the candle of hope. We hear again the first promise and prophesy made in the Garden of Eden after the fall into sin: "I 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." The Lord has kept His Word through the mouths of prophets who, for generations, pointed people to the promised Savior to come.  
C **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**
- P Guided by the light of hope, we respond with the psalmist: "Our soul waits for the Lord;  
C **He is our help and our shield.**
- P For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name.  
C **Let Your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in You."**

### Salutation

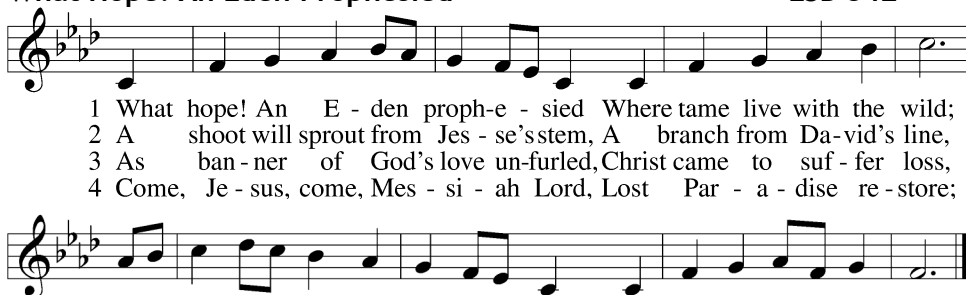
- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And with your spirit.**

### Prayer

- L Let us pray.  
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.**

### What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

LSB 342



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,  
3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;

The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth-le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

## Abraham to Judah

Matthew 1:1–2

<sup>1</sup>The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

<sup>2</sup>Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

## Reading

Genesis 22:1–14

L A reading from Genesis, chapter 22.

<sup>1</sup>After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” <sup>2</sup>He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” <sup>6</sup>And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup>And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here am I, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

<sup>9</sup>When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here am I.” <sup>12</sup>He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” <sup>13</sup>And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## The God of Abraham Praise

LSB 798 sts. 1, 7

1 The God of A-br'ham praise, Who reigns en-throned a-bove;  
7 There dwells the Lord our king, The Lord our righ-teous-ness,  
An-cient of ev-er-last-ing days And God of love.  
Tri-um-phant o'er the world and sin, The Prince of Peace.  
Je-ho-vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con-fessed;  
On Zi-on's sa-cred height His king-dom He main-tains  
I bow and bless the sa-cred name For-ev-er blest.  
And glo-rious with His saints in light For-ev-er reigns.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–99, alt. Tune: HebrewText and tune: Public domain

## From Judah to Jesse

*Matthew 1:3–5*

<sup>3</sup>and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, <sup>4</sup>and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, <sup>5</sup>and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,

## Joshua 2:1-14 (Rahab's Story)

*Joshua 2:1–14*

L A reading from Joshua, chapter 2.

<sup>1</sup>And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, “Go, view the land, especially Jericho.” And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there. <sup>2</sup>And it was told to the king of Jericho, “Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land.” <sup>3</sup>Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, “Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land.” <sup>4</sup>But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, “True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. <sup>5</sup>And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them.” <sup>6</sup>But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof. <sup>7</sup>So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

<sup>8</sup>Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof <sup>9</sup>and said to the men, “I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. <sup>10</sup>For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. <sup>11</sup>And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. <sup>12</sup>Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father’s house, and give me a sure sign <sup>13</sup>that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” <sup>14</sup>And the men said to her, “Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Ruth 1:1-19a (Ruth's Story)

*Ruth 1:1–19a*

L A reading from Ruth, chapter 1.

<sup>1</sup>In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. <sup>2</sup>The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. <sup>3</sup>But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. <sup>4</sup>These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, <sup>5</sup>and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

<sup>6</sup>Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the fields of Moab that the LORD had visited his people and given them food. <sup>7</sup>So she set out from the place where she was with her two daughters-in-law, and they went on the way to return to the land of Judah. <sup>8</sup>But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go, return each of you to her mother’s house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. <sup>9</sup>The LORD grant that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband!” Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voices and wept. <sup>10</sup>And they said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” <sup>11</sup>But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? <sup>12</sup>Turn back, my daughters; go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. If I should say I have hope, even if I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, <sup>13</sup>would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me.”

<sup>14</sup>Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

<sup>15</sup>And she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” <sup>16</sup>But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. <sup>17</sup>Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” <sup>18</sup>And when Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

<sup>19</sup>So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359 sts. 1–2

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph-ets long have  
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.

Text: German, 16th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, alt. Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln  
Text and tune: Public domain

### From Jesse to Jechoniah

Matthew 1:6–11

<sup>6</sup>and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, <sup>7</sup>and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, <sup>8</sup>and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, <sup>9</sup>and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, <sup>10</sup>and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, <sup>11</sup>and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

### 2 Kings 25:27–30 (The Story of Jehoiachin)

2 Kings 25:27–30

L A reading from 2 Kings, chapter 25.

<sup>27</sup>And in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, graciously freed Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison. <sup>28</sup>And he spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat above the seats of the kings who were with him in Babylon. <sup>29</sup>So Jehoiachin put off his prison garments. And every day of his life he dined regularly at the king's table, <sup>30</sup>and for his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king, according to his daily needs, as long as he lived.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

LSB 334 sts. 1, 6

1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
6 He comes to judge the na - tions, A ter - ror to His foes,  
Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
A light of con - so - la - tions And bless - ed hope to those  
O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
Who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,  
To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
Send forth Your beams so cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

*Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662  
Text and tune: Public domain*

## From Jechoniah to Christ

Matthew 1:10-16

L A reading from Matthew, chapter 1.

<sup>10</sup>and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah,  
<sup>11</sup>and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

<sup>12</sup>And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, <sup>13</sup>and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, <sup>14</sup>and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, <sup>15</sup>and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, <sup>16</sup>and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

## 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.  
From thence 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 T everlasting. Amen.

# Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332 sts. 1-4

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and

here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,

That the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
 God was there up - on His throne.  
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546; (sts. 1-2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812-76; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter  
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## Sermon

### Offering (During Hymn) My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933

1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the

great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He

fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion

bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
 halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the

ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
 wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the

sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
 to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring

Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
 God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556-c. 1622Text: © 1991 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001895Tune: Public domain

## Prayers

P Son of Mary and Son of God, we trust that in Your humanity, You know the burdens we bear, and in Your divinity, You hear and answer our prayers. So we kneel before You, just as Your mother knelt beside Your manger, to praise You for Your grace and to look to You for light.

O holy Child of Mary, we pray for all mothers, that they might know the honor of being called by You to lead and serve their children. Bless all who became mothers unexpectedly; protect them from discouragement and supply them with peace and patience. Send safety particularly to mothers in the middle of pregnancy; grant them equal measures of joyful anticipation and good health. Son of Mary,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O holy Child of Bethlehem, we pray for the hearts of Your people during this season of distraction. Give Your faithful an unwavering joy for this season and an eagerness to greet You when You come again. Make all believers lights in a dark world, that they might shine like stars with purity and hope, and in so doing, win others for Your kingdom through the power of Your Gospel. Son of David,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Only-begotten Son of the Father, You came as a light for all nations. Restrain evil leaders, bring an end to violence and discord, and kindle in all people a pursuit of peace and righteousness. Make us believers the first to help rather than hurt, meeting the needs of our neighbors as we have been equipped to do, so that all people might come to Your light and praise the brightness of Your rising. Son of God,

C **hear our prayer.**

## Lord's Prayer

*LSB 251*

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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

P Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the T Son who saved us and shall return to welcome us home, and the Holy Spirit who creates and nourishes the faith that Jesus is the Lord—be with you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## The Advent of Our King

LSB 331



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.

D 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*

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