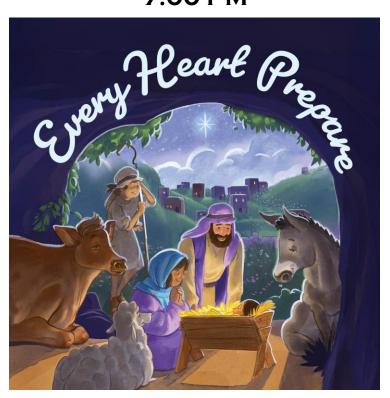


Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

MIDWEEK ADVENT VESPERS DECEMBER 3, 2025 7:00 PM



Pastor
Rev. Kelly Dean Krieg
(214) 208-1364
PastorKrieg@BethlehemWmPenn.org

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Janice Pazderny
(979) 836-7303
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Organist Ann Sommer <u>Ushers</u> Glenn Foster Delwin Gaskamp Kevin Goessler Kevin Harrington

<u>Acolyte</u> Dillion Nowicki

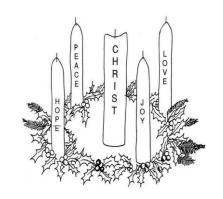
Midweek Advent Vespers

December 3, 2025 - 7:00 PM

Vespers

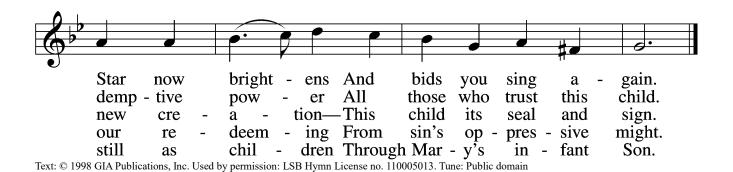
Order of Service: Lutheran Service Book, pp 229-234

Pre-Service Music



Ringing of the Church Bell





ADVENT 1: EVERGREENS

"Prepare!" is often the watchword of the season as the world gets ready for another celebration of Christmas. An integral part of any preparation is decoration. We see decorations everywhere this time of year. The world may not comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, but even secular preparations use many of the same decorations beloved by Christians—an appropriation we shouldn't mind at all, because these decorations point us to Christ. This year, as we look forward again to the coming of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the love, peace, joy, and hope He comes to bring as this beauty is set before us.

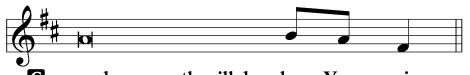
Tonight, we focus on evergreens. Perhaps the most innocuous decorations in the eyes of the world, their prickles remind us of the crown of thorns, and the berries of the holly evoke the blood-stained brow of our crucified Lord. Above all, the steadfastness of their green in the midst of death symbolizes life amid death—and the life eternal Jesus won for us on the cross.

Stand

OPENING SENTENCES

LSB 229

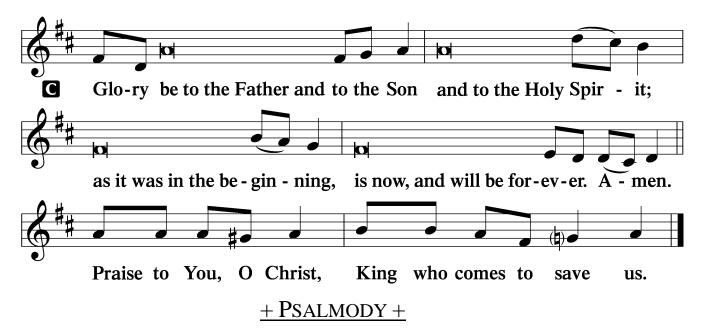
P O Lord, open my lips,



and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;





PSALM

Psalm 92; antiphon: v. 12

The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,

and Your faithfulness by night,

to the music of the lute and the harp,

to the melody of the lyre.

For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work;

at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.

How great are Your works, O LORD!

Your thoughts are very deep!

The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this:

that though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever;

but You, O LORD,

are on high forever.

For behold, Your enemies, O LORD,

for behold, Your enemies shall perish;

all evildoers shall be scattered.

But You have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;

You have poured over me fresh oil.

My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies;

my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.

The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

They are planted in the house of the LORD;

they flourish in the courts of our God.

They still bear fruit in old age;

they are ever full of sap and green,

to declare that the LORD is upright;

He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

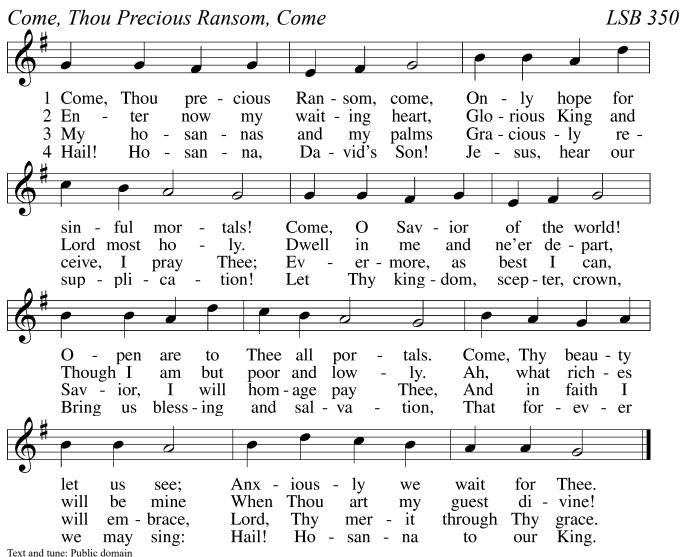
as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Sit

OFFICE HYMN



+ READINGS +

FIRST READING

Hosea 14:4-8

P A reading from Hosea, the fourteenth chapter.

⁴I will heal their apostasy;

I will love them freely,

for My anger has turned from them.

⁵I will be like the dew to Israel;

he shall blossom like the lily;

he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon;

⁶his shoots shall spread out;

his beauty shall be like the olive,

and his fragrance like Lebanon.

⁷They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow;

they shall flourish like the grain;

they shall blossom like the vine;

their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon.

⁸O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols?

It is I who answer and look after you.

I am like an evergreen cypress;

from Me comes your fruit.

- P O Lord, have mercy on us.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Revelation 22:1-5

P A reading from Revelation, the twenty-second chapter.

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him. ⁴They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

- P O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING

John 11:17-27

P A reading from John, the eleventh chapter.

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met Him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

- P O Lord, have mercy on us.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

LSB 230

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



by which the war be cancal the Bora is our right tooks not

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



by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righ-teous-ness.

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



This is the name

by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righ-teous-ness.



Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955. Tune: Bruce W. Becker, 1952 Text: © 1993 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013 Tune: © 1995 Bruce W. Becker. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013

SERMON Evergreens John 11:17-27

+ CANTICLE+

Stand

LSB 231 **ANTIPHON P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.





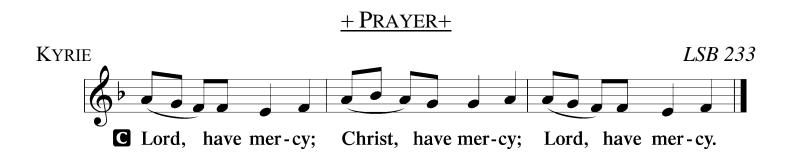


as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.

Sit

OFFERING

Stand



THE 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.



- **P** For eyes to behold the Father's hand in all creation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P For awareness of beauty and the living traditions of the church that bring Christ to our eyes through arts and crafts, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- **P** That we may see the signs of Christ's return even as we celebrate His birth, and encourage one another all the more as we see the Day drawing near, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- **P** That we may be living testimonies of new life in Christ through our loving service to our neighbor—both in word and in deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **P** That we may be thankful for the bountiful harvest we enjoy amid the many festivities of this season, and be generous to the poor, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- **P** That we may love one another as God so loved us, forgive one another, and work together in the unity we have in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- P That we may not be lured into temptation or despair or be distracted by the false Christmases around us, but always hold the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- 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.
- P Lord of all beauty, You made the heavens and the earth; the world and all its fullness are Yours. Thank You for giving us life and filling creation with signs that declare Your glory. As we behold beautiful evergreens this season, fix our eyes on their thorny leaves and red berries that we may give thanks for the crown Your Son wore and the cross He bore for us. Abide in us always, as we abide in

Your Word and take heart in the promise of eternal life with Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

- C Amen.
- P Lord of life, You sent Your Son to bring back to life all the children of Adam. Grant that we may view the evergreens of this season through the eyes of faith so that in a world still filled with death, we may be of good courage, knowing that, just as the evergreen prevails over death in winter, we prevail over the winter of our sin and will rise to life eternal on the Last Day; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

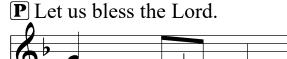
COLLECT FOR PEACE

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.



Stand

BENEDICAMUS LSB 234



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.



Sit



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain



Thank you for worshiping with us! Please fill out a pew attendance card and place it in the offering plate.



Second Sunday in Advent – December 7th

Sunday School at 9:00 AM Worship Service at 10:15 AM

Midweek Advent Vespers – December 10th

Meal at 6:00 PM Worship Service at 7:00 PM

Third Sunday in Advent – December 14th

Sunday School at 9:00 AM Worship Service at 10:15 AM

Midweek Advent Vespers – December 17th

Meal at 6:00 PM

Worship Service at 7:00 PM

Fourth Sunday in Advent – December 21st

Sunday School at 9:00 AM Worship Service at 10:15 AM





Christmas Eve Children's Program – December 24th at 6:30 PM

Christmas Day Worship Service – December 25th at 9:00 AM

New Year's Eve Worship Service – December 31st at 7:00 PM

