



Second Midweek Advent Service
December 8, 2021

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Photo Credit: Joshua Mazur

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Midweek Advent 2

Prelude

Bist Du Bei Mir JS Bach

Welcome & Announcements

Hymn: 936 Sing Praise to the God of Israel



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on
3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His
4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:
way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,
lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - pish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -
His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and
And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!
liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.
grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.
foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

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Opening Versicles

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting

C The name of the Lord is to be praised.

P Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty

C Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.

P Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Make His paths straight.

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies reign down righteousness;

C let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth and righteousness may bear fruit;

P let the earth cause them both to sprout;

C I the Lord have created it.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting

C The name of the Lord is to be praised.

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.

Advent Prayer

P Almighty God,

C Give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility, that on the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

P Prepare us for Your coming;

C And save us from our sins.

Scripture Reading – Luke 1:57-80

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the

Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him.

But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.”

And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.”

And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived... Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.”

And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called.

And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.”

And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the

mouth of His holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, the oath that He swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn – “The Lord God Is My Strength and Song”

1. The Lord God is my strength and song
And my salvation has become;
In Him I trust; I will not fear.
The God of my salvation’s near.
2. Give thanks to God, call on His name,
Make known to all His deeds of fame,
As we proclaim His name most high
Salvation fills our hearts with joy.
3. Sing praise to God, for He has done
Most gloriously. Let this be known
In all the world. O Zion, sing
And shout for joy since God is King.

Sermon – “Zechariah’s Song: The Benedictus”

Responsive Prayer 1 - Suffrages

P Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,
C have mercy and hear us.

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.

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 † everlasting. Amen.

P Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,
C and grant us Your salvation.

P Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness;
C and let Your saints shout for joy.

P Lord, keep this nation under Your care,
C and guide us in the way of justice and truth.

P Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
C for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth.

P Let the peoples praise You, O God;
C let all the peoples praise You!

P For the needy shall not always be forgotten,
C and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

P Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C and renew a right spirit within me.

P Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C let my cry come to You.

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn – “Blest Be the God of Israel”

1. Blest be the God of Israel, Who comes to set us free;
He visits and redeems us; He grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, Of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill His promise And bring His people peace.
2. He from the house of David A child of grace has giv’n;
A Savior comes among us To raise us up to heav’n.
Before Him goes His herald, Forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation, The harbinger of day.
3. On prisoners of darkness The sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness Upon the sinner’s eyes.
He guides the feet of pilgrims Along the paths of peace.
Oh, bless our God and Savior With songs that never cease!

Postlude

Acknowledgments

Responsive Prayer 1 from Lutheran Service Book

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