

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP III
“Our Advent Journey: to Bethlehem”
December 20, 2023

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Huron, South Dakota

Hymn Sing and Welcome

Opening Hymn # 350 – Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.

- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!

3 My hosannas and my palms
 Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
 Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
 Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
 Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Text: Public domain

Invocation and Opening Verses

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

C: Shout, daughter of Jerusalem!

P: See, your King comes to you,

C: Righteous and having salvation.

P: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: From the house of the Lord we bless you.

The Advent Canticle # 357 (6) – Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

**O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

The “O” Antiphon

P: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

C: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death. Amen

The Scripture Readings

The Old Testament Prophecy: Micah 5:1-4

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops;
siege is laid against us;
with a rod they strike the judge of Israel
on the cheek.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
 from ancient days.
Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
 to the people of Israel.
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth.

Following the Reading:

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel:

Luke 2:1-7

Prior to the reading of the Gospel:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the Second Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Following the Reading:

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ,

Children's Sermon

The Sermon Hymn # 642 – O Living Bread from Heaven

1 O living Bread from heaven,
 How well You feed your guest!
The gifts that You have given
 Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,
 Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
 With praises overflows.

2 My Lord, You here have led me
 To this most holy place
And with Yourself have fed me
 The treasures of Your grace;
For You have freely given
 What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven,
 That now I shall not die.

3 You gave me all I wanted;
 This food can death destroy.
And You have freely granted
 The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
 The favor You have shown,
And all my soul and spirit
 Bow down before Your throne.

4 Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened
With heav'nly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened,
To serve with holy fear.
And when You call my spirit
To leave this world below,
I enter, through Your merit,
Where joys unmingled flow.

Text: Public domain

The Sermon “Our Advent Journey, to Bethlehem”

The Exchange of Peace and The Offering

The Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

**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.**

The Responsive Verse

P: Lo, He who is coming has come!

C: **We welcome Him with thankful hearts.**

P: Lo, He who has come is coming!

C: **We wait for Him with fervent faith.**

P: Lo, He comes!

C: **Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**

The Benediction

P: The Almighty and Merciful Lord, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and keep us
as we await the coming of our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn # 878 – Abide with Me, Fast Falls the Eventide

- 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- 2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
- 3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.
- 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
- 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Text: Public domain

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