

# Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

December 2, 2020

First Midweek of Advent



## Jesus, the Seed of Jesse's Tree

Advent means “coming.” As the largest of trees begin with a seed, so it is with God’s promise to save the world from sin and death. Salvation is coming. After the fall, God promised that the fruit of Adam and Eve would one day be wounded, yet He would crush the head of sin and death. From that seed of a promise sprouted numerous signposts of the Coming One: the promise to Abraham and Sarah, the crossing of the Red Sea, the prophets declaring that out of the stump of Jesse would sprout a Savior. The seed of salvation, promised long ago, was born into the world in Jesus, His first advent. And now, during this Advent season, we await with joyful hope His second advent. Jesus, the Seed, has been planted in a tomb and sprouted forth to new life, filling us with hope as we wait, watch, and prepare for Jesus’ second advent.

# **Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church & Preschool**

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

**December 2, 2020**

First Midweek of Advent

## *Serving Today*

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**Pastor Jonathan Christensen**  
**Lois Schweinler, Choir Director**

**Robert Hamrick, Organist**

**Elders**

**Lectors**

**Greeter**

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**2606 Chimney Rock Road—Hendersonville, NC 28792**

**Church Phone 692-7027**

**Preschool Phone 698-5900**

**Church E-mail: [mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com](mailto:mtpisgahlcms@gmail.com)**

**Website: [www.mtpisgahlutheran.com](http://www.mtpisgahlutheran.com)**

**Church Office Hours 9:00 AM—3:00 PM M-TH**

**9:00 AM—1:00PM on Friday**

# Order of Vespers

Prelude

What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

Edwin Childs

Hymn

342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied



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;

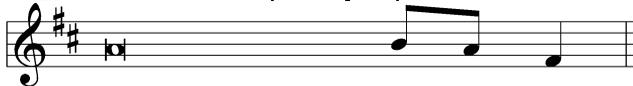


The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

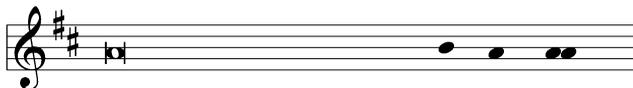
*Stand*



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



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



Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.



Hymn

561 The Tree of Life



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's  
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,  
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of  
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and  
 as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -  
 res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's  
 ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this  
 guile And Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of  
 seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a  
 lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they  
 sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and  
 tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would  
 fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to



knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -  
 death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -  
 die, Would drink the cup of scorn and  
 eat, To find with - in this cross of



dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.  
 played With - in the world so new - ly made.  
 dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!  
 wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

Readings

First Reading

Genesis 1:27; 3:8–15

**L** A reading from Genesis, the first and third chapters.

<sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>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."

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*Romans 5:12–21*

**L** A reading from Romans, the fifth chapter.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— <sup>13</sup>for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup>Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup>But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. <sup>16</sup>And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. <sup>17</sup>If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup>Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup>For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. <sup>20</sup>Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <sup>21</sup>so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Responsory (Advent)



- L** 1 Behold, the days  
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise  
up for David a right-teous Branch.
- 2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will  
dwell se - cure - ly.
- 3 Glory be to the  
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



**C** This is the name  
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righ-teous-ness.

## Catechesis

- C** What do the Scriptures teach about Christ's conception?
- L** They teach that Christ, the Son of God, received a true human body and soul in the Virgin Mary through the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, not through a human father.
- C** Where is this in Scripture?
- L** Luke 1:35, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."

## Hymn

### 381 Let Our Gladness Have No End



- 1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Proph - e - sied in days of old, al - le - lu - ia!  
3 See, the love - liest bloom - ing rose, al - le - lu - ia!  
4 In - to flesh is made the Word, al - le - lu - ia!



For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!  
God has sent Him as fore - told, al - le - lu - ia!  
From the branch of Jes - se grows, al - le - lu - ia!  
He, our ref - uge and our Lord, al - le - lu - ia!



On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save

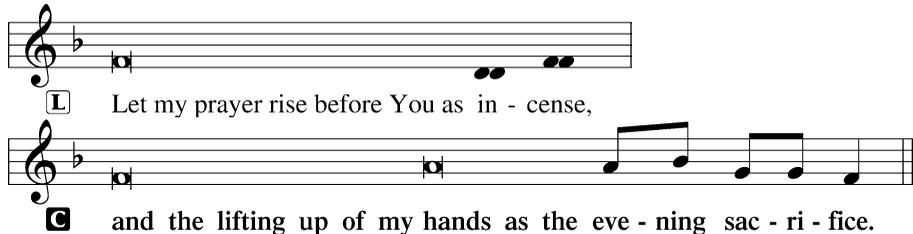


us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

Sermon

# Canticle

Stand

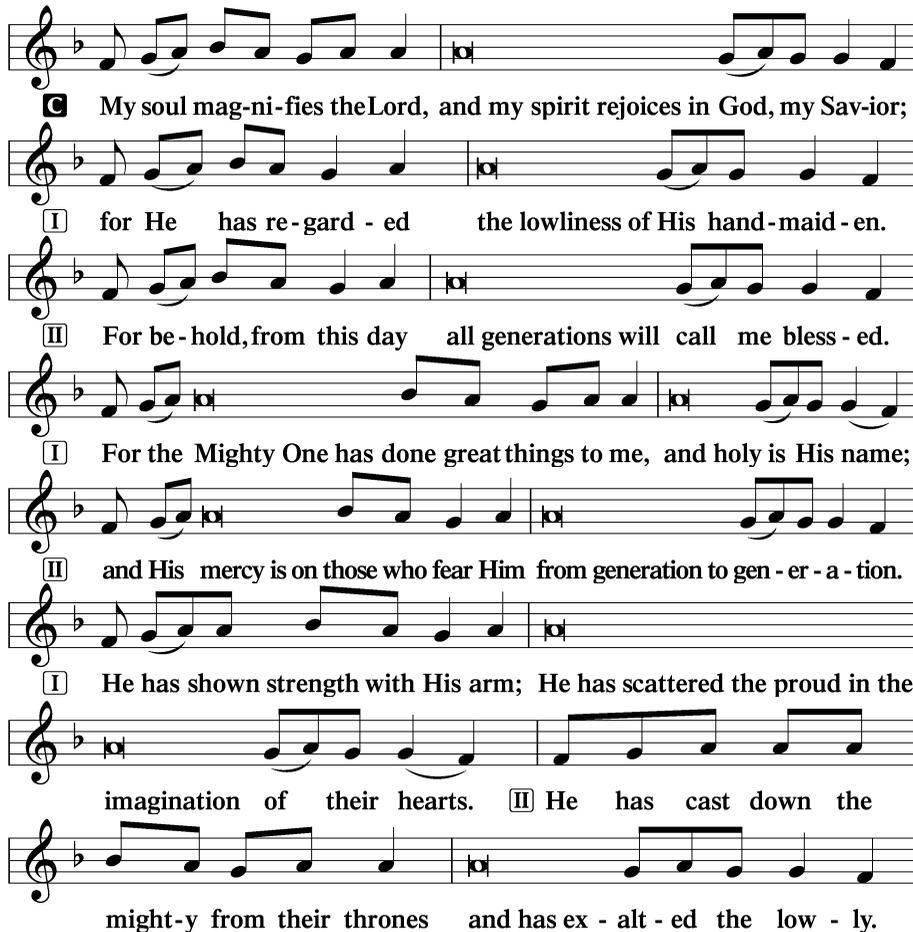


**L** Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,  
**C** and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Voice **I** is sung by the Men. Voice **II** is sung by the Women.

## Magnificat

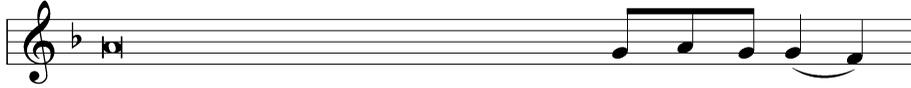
LSB 231



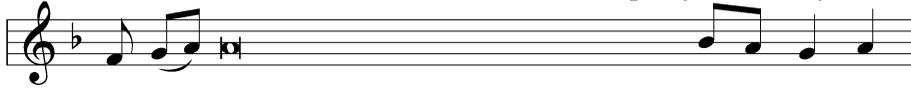
**C** My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;  
**I** for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.  
**II** For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.  
**I** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;  
**II** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.  
**I** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the  
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the  
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



**I** He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



**II** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;



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

## Prayer

### Kyrie

LSB 233



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

### 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



**L** O Lord, hear my prayer.



**C** And let my cry come to You.

## Collect of the Day

**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.

## Collect

**P** Gracious Father, You promised long ago a Savior to overcome sin and death, and You fulfilled that promise in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Fill us with hope as we await Christ's return, which will bring the seed of Your promise to full fruition, that our lives may show forth the joy of trusting in You; 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

**L** O Lord, our dwelling place and our peace, You have compassion on our weakness. Put far from us all worry and fearfulness that, having confessed our sins and commending ourselves to Your gracious mercy, we may, when night shall come, commit ourselves, our work, and all we love into Your keeping, receiving from You the gift of quiet sleep; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Benedicamus

LSB 234



**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

LSB 234



**P** The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**C** A - men.

# Hymn

# 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'  
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send  
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - ya year,  
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head  
That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith,  
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again  
As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face,  
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Postlude

## Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Hugo Distler

## Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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The Ladies Guild will meet on Monday, December 14, 2020 at the church. We were unable to get reservations for our annual Christmas luncheon. We will have our luncheon in the fellowship hall. Please bring an appetizer or hors d'oeuvres to share. All ladies of the church are welcome. If you have any questions please contact Lydia Cassidy at 828-696-0588.

Thanks,  
Lydia

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### Christmas Eve

"We will be handing out goody bags again this Christmas eve to the children. To ensure no one is left out, please let us know by Dec. 20 if you will be having any family or guest with children attending the service. It would also be helpful to know the age group. You can either contact the church office 692-7027 or Diane Sanborn at 693-8062. Thank you!"