

*Midweek Advent Service*  
*December 9, 2020*



# Jesus, the Root of Jesse's Tree

## As We Gather

“The land of Moriah.” Our first impression may be that this geographic location in the Middle East does not have much meaning for us today. Yet, it does. A mountain in Moriah is the place that the Lord instructs Abraham to travel to in order to sacrifice his son Isaac. As the pair ascend the mountain and come to where God led them, the Lord intervenes and spares Isaac’s life, providing a ram as the offering. In the New Testament, “the land of Moriah” has even greater significance for us. This is where Jerusalem and the temple are built. This land is where Jesus will ascend Mount Calvary. God, however, will not spare the life of His only begotten Son; instead, He will allow Him to die for you. This sacrifice for you is what Jesus was born to do. Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!

Solo "Consider the Stars" (Getty/Barra) Jackie Pearce

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

*Isaiah 11:1; Genesis 22:17b–18; Hebrews 11:17a*

**P** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
**C** and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.  
**P** And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,  
**C** and in your offspring  
**P** shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,  
**C** because you have obeyed My voice.  
**P** By faith Abraham, when he was tested,  
**C** offered up Isaac.

## Service of Light

**P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:  
**C** Come, Lord Jesus.  
**P** All those who await His appearance pray:  
**C** Come, Lord Jesus.  
**P** The whole creation pleads:  
**C** Come, Lord Jesus.  
**P** Awaiting the shoot from the stump of Jesse, we implore:  
**C** Come, Lord Jesus.

As the hymn is sung, the candles of the Advent wreath and/or on the altar are lighted.

## 891 O Light Whose Splendor



1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens  
2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,  
3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,

With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,  
And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,  
Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,

Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,  
In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es  
O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,

O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;  
To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.  
Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less days.

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## Prayer of the Day

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who provided Abraham with offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as many as the sand that is on the seashore, that in his offspring all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## First Reading

*Hebrews 11:17–22*

**P** A reading from Hebrews, the eleventh chapter.

<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, <sup>18</sup>of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” <sup>19</sup>He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. <sup>20</sup>By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. <sup>21</sup>By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. <sup>22</sup>By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

Genesis 22:1–18

**P** A reading from Genesis, the twenty-second chapter.

<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.” <sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup>and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Litany

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For [names of synodical and district presidents], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For [name of president or monarch], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

*The prayers then continue:*

**P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**C** **Alleluia.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

**P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

**C** **To You, O Lord.**

**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.

**C** **Amen.**

## 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.**

## 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

*sts. 1, 3-4, 6*

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,  
Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send  
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- 3 Abram's promised great reward,  
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—  
Him of twofold race behold—  
Truly came, as long foretold.
- 4 As Your coming was in peace,  
Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me  
Which is Yours eternally.
- 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.

**Sermon** "Jesus, the Root of Jesse's Tree" Genesis 22:1-18

### Prayer

- P** Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

### Blessing

- P** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
**C** **and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.**  
**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.  
**C** **Amen.**

## 547 The Lamb

*sts. 1, ref, 2*

- 1 The Lamb, the Lamb,  
O Father, where's the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes  
God will provide the Lamb of price! **Refrain**  
**Refrain** Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!
- 2 The Lamb, the Lamb,  
One perfect final offering.  
The Lamb, the Lamb,  
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

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