



BLESSED TO SHARE THE BLESSING IN THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS

## *Advent Mid-Week service 12/9*

**Pastor**  
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**Pastor Emeritus**  
Linsey H. Dettmer  
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Jolanta Didenko  
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**Worship**  
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and the brief biblical explanation of Communion on the inside cover of the hymnal.+++

reflect on Jesus' coming at Christmas. It is a time to look with hope toward His coming again at the restoration of all creation. It is a time to recognize Jesus' coming to us now in His Word, Baptism, and Holy Communion. In a world that often feels ungrounded and rootless, we find during Advent deep and abiding hope in Jesus as the root of our life and faith. As the roots of a tree nourish it, keep it grounded, and cause it to grow, so Jesus, the root of Jesse's tree, nourishes us, grounds us, and

causes us to grow in faith. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, we pause midweek to be grounded and rooted in Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.

HYMN "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied" (LSB 342)

What hope! An Eden prophesied Where tame live with the wild; The lamb and lion side by side, Led by a little child!	As banner of God's love unfurled, Christ came to suffer loss, That by His death a dying world Would rally to the cross.
A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem, A branch from David's line, A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem: The fruit of God's design.	Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, Lost Paradise restore; Lead past the angel's flaming sword— Come, open heaven's door.

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*Confession and Absolution Setting 3 begins on page 184*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. .... Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the The Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

L O Lord, open my lips,

C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

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

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

PSALM *Psalm 92*

L It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,\*  
to sing praises to Your name, | O Most High;

C **to declare Your steadfast love in the | morning,\*  
and Your faithful- | ness by night,**

L to the music of the lute | and the harp,\*  
to the melody | of the lyre.

C **For You, O LORD, have made me glad | by Your work;\*  
at the works of Your hands I | sing for joy.**

L How great are Your works, | O LORD!\*  
Your thoughts are | very deep!

C **The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot under- | stand this:\*  
that though the wicked sprout like grass  
and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction for- | ever;**

L but You, | O LORD,\*  
are on high for- | ever.

C **For behold, Your enemies, O LORD,  
or behold, Your enemies shall | perish;\*  
all evildoers shall be | scattered.**

L But You have exalted my horn like that of the | wild ox;\*  
You have poured over me | fresh oil.

**C My eyes have seen the downfall of my | enemies;\***  
**my ears have heard the doom of my evil as- | sailants.**

L The righteous flourish like the | palm tree\*  
and grow like a cedar in | Lebanon.

**C They are planted in the house | of the LORD;\***  
**they flourish in the courts | of our God.**

L They still bear fruit in | old age;\*  
they are ever full of | sap and green,

**C to declare that the LORD is | upright;\***  
**He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness | in Him.**

OFFICE HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (*LSB* 357)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

refRejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord’rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,  
Free them from Satan’s tyranny

That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,  
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.  
Refrain

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav’nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

FIRST READING

*Genesis 22:1–18*

L 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.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

*Hebrews 11:17–22*

<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.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

*LSB*, p. 230

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

**C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

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

**C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

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

**C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

SERMON

**Offering (Please place your offering in the white box as you enter or depart)**

*(As we sing the offertory pastor raises the offering plate as a wave offering for all of our tithes and offerings given in person or by mail or via the internet)*

**f** Offertory

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

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

**C What do the Scriptures teach of the birth of Jesus?**

L They teach that Jesus Christ, the God-man, was born of the Virgin Mary.

**C Where is this in Scripture?**

L Isaiah 7:14, “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel,” and Luke 2:7, “She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger.”

ANTIPHON

*LSB*, p. 231

L Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

**C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

MAGNIFICAT

**C My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;**

! for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.

@ For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

! For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;

@ and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

! He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

@ He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

! He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.

@ He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

**C 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.**

COLLECTS

L O Lord, hear my prayer.

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

P 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.**

P God of hope, You graciously provided a Savior for us, who is now the root of our faith and life. Root us and ground us in Jesus, so that our lives may not be swayed by every temptation that comes. In the midst of a constantly wavering world, let our lives be signs of Your abiding and steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

Preface

Service of the Sacrament

P The Lord be with you.

**C And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

**C It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary.....evermore praising You and saying:

**ƒ Sanctus** (*Holy*)

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Lord's Prayer**

**The Words of Our Lord**

**Pax Domini** (*The Peace of the Lord*)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C Amen.**

**ƒ Agnus Dei** (*Lamb of God*)

**C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.**

**Amen.**

**Distribution**

**ƒ Nunc Dimittis** (*Now Dismiss*) (*Song of Simeon*)

**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### Thanksgiving

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C** and His mercy endureth forever.

### Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Salutation & Benedicamus (*we bless / we praise*)

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**A** Bless we the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and **T** give you peace. **C** Amen

### Closing Hymn “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (LSB 338)

1	Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free; From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,	Dear desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart.
2	Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king! Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit	

Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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