



Jesus, the Root of Jesse's Tree

As We Gather

Advent is a time to 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.

Stand

- 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

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

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.

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

- C** **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;**
**as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Sit

First Reading

Genesis 22:1–18

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

¹After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." ²He 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." ³So 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. ⁴On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵Then 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." ⁶And 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. ⁷And 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?" ⁸Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

⁹When 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.

¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I."

¹²He 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." ¹³And 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. ¹⁴So 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."

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸and 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

L A reading from Hebrews, the eleventh chapter.

¹⁷By 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, ¹⁸of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ¹⁹He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did

receive him back. ²⁰By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²²By 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 (Advent)

LSB 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

Catechesis

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."

Canticle

Stand

- L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
- C** **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

Magnificat

LSB 231

- C** **My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;**
- I** for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
- II** For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
- 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 generation.
- 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 mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
- I** He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.
- II** 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.

Sit

Offering

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie

LSB 233

- C** Lord, have mercy;
- Christ, have mercy;**
- Lord, have mercy.**

Lord's Prayer

Collects

- L** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C** **And let my cry come to You.**

Collect of the Day

- 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.**

Collect

- 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.**

Collect for Peace

L 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.**

Stand

Benedicamus

LSB 234

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 234

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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