



Jesus, the Life of Jesse's Tree

As We Gather

As the celebration of Christ's birth draws near, it is good to remember that the Advent season is about life. God entered this world, which is marred by death, as a vulnerable baby, brimming with the hope of new life. This Christ Child grew up to be the resurrection and the life, so that in the midst of the darkness of death, we have hope for life now and into eternity. Our Advent calling is to let the life we now have in Christ shine forth into the dark places of our world, so that those who dwell in the land of deep darkness may know the light and life of Jesus.

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.

- C** You make known to me the | path of life;*
in Your presence there is fullness of joy;
at Your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.
- L** Preserve me, | O God,*
for in You I take | refuge.
- C** I say to the LORD, "You | are my Lord;*
I have no good a- | part from You."
- L** As for the saints | in the land,*
they are the excellent ones,
in whom is all | my delight.
- C** The sorrows of those who run after another god
shall | multiply;*
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names | on my lips.
- L** The LORD is my chosen portion | and my cup;*
You | hold my lot.
- C** The lines have fallen for me in pleasant | places;*
indeed, I have a beautiful in- | heritance.
- L** I bless the LORD who gives me | counsel;*
in the night also my heart in- | structs me.
- C** I have set the LORD always be- | fore me;*
because He is at my right hand, I shall not be |
shaken.
- L** Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being re- |
joices;*
my flesh also | dwells secure.
- C** For You will not abandon my soul | to Sheol,*
or let Your holy one see cor- | ruption.

You make known to me the | path of life;*
in Your presence there is fullness of joy;
at Your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.

☐ 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

Matthew 3:13–17

☐ A reading from Matthew, the third chapter.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

☐ O Lord, have mercy on us.

☐ Thanks be to God.

Reading

Romans 6:1–11

☐ A reading from Romans, the sixth chapter.

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been

baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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 is the Magnificat?**

L It is Latin for “magnify, praise.”

C **Where is this in Scripture?**

L It is the first word of the Song of Mary as found in Luke 1:46–55.

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 Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Collect

P God of life, into this death-marred world You bring life through Jesus, the resurrection and the life. Fill us with the life of Jesus, so that, in this world so often filled with darkness, our lives may shine forth His life and hope; 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

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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.

349 Hark the Glad Sound

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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