





## Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

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Advent Midweek Worship

December 6, 2023

### Advent Litany

- P** YHWH proclaimed through the prophet Isaiah that:  
**C** **“In my faithfulness I will reward my people, and make an everlasting covenant with them.**
- P** Their descendants will be known among the nations,  
**C** **and their offspring among the peoples.**
- P** All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people YHWH has blessed.  
**C** **I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God.**
- P** For he has clothed me with garments of salvation,  
**C** **and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,**
- P** As a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,  
**C** **And a bride adorns herself with her jewels.**
- P** For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow,  
**C** **So the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.” (Isa. 61:7b-11) 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.**

### 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.**

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

- P** We gather to prepare our hearts for the Lord of Advent: the little Messiah who comes into the world and into our hearts. He tells us to be watchful for his coming, and he himself prepares us. His Spirit abides in us so that our hearts may be cleansed by his power. Trusting in the mercy of his judgment, we therefore confess our sin to the Lord.

*We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.*

- P** Lord, have mercy on us;  
**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**  
**P** Christ, have mercy on us;  
**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**  
**P** Lord, have mercy on us;  
**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**  
**P** Hear the Good News which the angels proclaimed: Jesus, the Messiah, is the son of our loving God and he takes away the sin of the world and our fear. The message of the prophets is fulfilled in his coming. The Good News of Christmas is that God's child has come to live among us to save us from sin and fear.  
**C** **Amen**

## **Advent Versicles**

- 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.**

## **Prayer**

- P** Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify you forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

## **First Reading**

*Isaiah 61:1-2a*

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

Leviticus 25:1-17, 20-24, 35-54

The LORD said to Moses at Mount Sinai, <sup>2</sup>“Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the LORD. <sup>3</sup>For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. <sup>4</sup>But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. <sup>5</sup>Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest. <sup>6</sup>Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you—for yourself, your male and female servants, and the hired worker and temporary resident who live among you, <sup>7</sup>as well as for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. Whatever the land produces may be eaten.

<sup>8</sup>“Count off seven sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. <sup>9</sup>Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. <sup>10</sup>Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. <sup>11</sup>The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. <sup>12</sup>For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you; eat only what is taken directly from the fields.

<sup>13</sup>“In this Year of Jubilee everyone is to return to their own property.

<sup>14</sup>“If you sell land to any of your own people or buy land from them, do not take advantage of each other. <sup>15</sup>You are to buy from your own people on the basis of the number of years since the Jubilee. And they are to sell to you on the basis of the number of years left for harvesting crops. <sup>16</sup>When the years are many, you are to increase the price, and when the years are few, you are to decrease the price, because what is really being sold to you is the number of crops. <sup>17</sup>Do not take advantage of each other, but fear your God. I am the LORD your God.

<sup>20</sup>You may ask, “What will we eat in the seventh year if we do not plant or harvest our crops?” <sup>21</sup>I will send you such a blessing in the sixth year that the land will yield enough for three years. <sup>22</sup>While you plant during the eighth year, you will eat from the old crop and will continue to eat from it until the harvest of the ninth year comes in.

<sup>23</sup>“The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers. <sup>24</sup>Throughout the land that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land.

<sup>35</sup>“If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and are unable to support themselves among you, help them as you would a foreigner and stranger, so they can continue to live among you. <sup>36</sup>Do not take interest or any profit from them, but

fear your God, so that they may continue to live among you. <sup>37</sup> You must not lend them money at interest or sell them food at a profit. <sup>38</sup> I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God. <sup>39</sup> “If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and sell themselves to you, do not make them work as slaves. <sup>40</sup> They are to be treated as hired workers or temporary residents among you; they are to work for you until the Year of Jubilee. <sup>41</sup> Then they and their children are to be released, and they will go back to their own clans and to the property of their ancestors. <sup>42</sup> Because the Israelites are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt, they must not be sold as slaves. <sup>43</sup> Do not rule over them ruthlessly, but fear your God.

<sup>54</sup> “Even if someone is not redeemed in any of these ways, they and their children are to be released in the Year of Jubilee, <sup>55</sup> for the Israelites belong to me as servants. They are my servants, whom I brought out of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Advent Litany

**P** YHWH proclaimed through the prophet Isaiah that “you will be called priests of YHWH, and:

**C** (we) will be named ministers of our God.” (*Isa. 61:6a*)

**P** (Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion,

**C** and instead of disgrace (we) will rejoice in our inheritance.

**P** And so you will inherit a double portion in your land,

**C** and everlasting joy will be (ours).” (*Isa. 61:7*)

### Holy Gospel

*Luke 4:14-21*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,

<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

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

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

### *Hark the Glad Sound*

LSB 349

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of his grace  
To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring  
With thy belovèd name.

### Sermon

#### Presentation of Offering

**P** Let us pray. Lord of Advent,

**C** Accept the offerings we bring this day, the work of our hands, the gifts of our labor, our lives to serve you. Gladden our hearts as we watch for your coming and help us to share that gladness with all. Amen.

#### Advent Litany

**P** YHWH proclaimed through the prophet Isaiah that he will:

**C** “provide for those who grieve in Zion -

**P** to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,

**C** the oil of joy instead of mourning,

**P** and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.” (*Isa. 61:3a*)

#### Litany for Christ's Coming

**P** As the days of Advent hasten on and we draw nearer to the day of Christ's coming, let us pray with fervent hearts for the needs of the world:

**C** Come, Lord Jesus, and do not tarry.

**P** Lord Christ, in joy and anticipation we await your coming.

**C** Come now and illumine the whole universe.

**P** All creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

**C** Come soon, and save those who wait in darkness.

- P** The suffering and the poor look to you for their hope.
- C** **Come and raise us to glory in your presence.**
- P** The troubled and oppressed have nowhere to turn but to you.
- C** **Come quickly and banish the powers of evil and darkness around us.**
- P** The sick and weary, the dying, and the faint-hearted cry out in their despair.
- C** **Come and bring us eternal wholeness and health.**
- P** Even the martyrs and the blessed dead make their plea, "O Lord, how long?"
- C** **Come now and give us eternal life.**
- P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** All those who await your appearance pray:
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** The whole creation pleads:
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. 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.
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** Harken to the prayers of your servants, Lord Jesus. By the sign of the manger of Bethlehem, give us hope in the promise of your return. Come quickly, Lord, and bring us to the joys of the resurrection, where we will praise you with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.
- C** **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

*LSB 251*

## *Once He Came in Blessing*

*LSB 333*

- 1 **Once he came in blessing,  
All our sins redressing;  
Came in likeness lowly,  
Son of God most holy;  
Bore the cross to save us;  
Hope and freedom gave us.**
  
- 2 **Now he gently leads us;  
With himself he feeds us  
Precious food from heaven,  
Pledge of peace here given,  
Manna that will nourish  
Souls that they may flourish.**
  
- 3 **Soon will come that hour  
When with mighty power  
Christ will come in splendor  
And will judgment render,**

**With the faithful sharing  
Joy beyond comparing.**

- 4** **Come, then, O Lord Jesus,  
From our sins release us.  
Keep our hearts believing,  
That we, grace receiving,  
Ever may confess you  
Till in heav'n we bless you.**

### **Collect For Peace**

- P** Spirit of the Lord God, you bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, and release the prisoners. You comfort all who mourn, you shower your people with the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and provide a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. We will greatly rejoice in the Lord for the sake of the one who brought righteousness to life, Jesus Christ our salvation.
- C** **Amen.**

### **Advent Benediction**

- P** May God be with you as you keep watch for the One whose Advent is promised.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** May God embolden your witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** May you be found ready and alert at Christ's return, at peace in body, mind and spirit, and doing his will.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** And may God almighty, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

### **Sending**

- P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**