

A dark, atmospheric illustration of a forest with bare, gnarled trees. The scene is shrouded in a thick, grey fog. In the lower right foreground, a single lit candle sits in a dark, carved wooden holder. The candle's flame is bright yellow and orange, providing the only source of light in the scene. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

**“Is the Lord among
us or not?”**

Exodus 17:3



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!

Advent Midweek Worship

December 4, 2024

O Savior, Rend the Heaven Wide *LSB 355 (tune 344)*

- 1 **O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
 Come down, come down with mighty stride;
 Unlock the gates, the doors break down;
 Unbar the way to heaven’s crown.**

- 2 **O Father, light from heaven send;
 As morning dew, O Son, descend.
 Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:
 To Jacob’s line rain down the King.**

- 4 **O Fount of hope, how long, how long?
 When will you come with comfort strong?
 O come, O come, your throne forego;
 Console us in our vale of woe.**

- 6 **Sin’s dreadful doom upon us lies;
 Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
 O come, lead us with mighty hand
 From exile to our promised land.**

Invocation

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

Confession and Forgiveness

- P** We gather to prepare our hearts for the Lord of Advent: the 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. He takes away the sin of the world, and he takes away 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.**

First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put

the Lord to the test?”

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the Lord, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

⁵ The Lord answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Psalm 77

P I cry aloud to God,

C Aloud to God, and he will hear me.

P In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord;

C In the night my hand is stretched out without wearying;
my soul refuses to be comforted.

P When I remember God, I moan;

C When I meditate, my spirit faints.

P You hold my eyelids open;

C I am so troubled that I cannot speak.

P I consider the days of old,

C The years long ago.

P I said, “Let me remember my song in the night;
let me meditate in my heart.”

C Then my spirit made a diligent search:

P “Will the Lord spurn forever,

C And never again be favorable?

P Has his steadfast love forever ceased?

C Are his promises at an end for all time?

P Has God forgotten to be gracious?

C Has he in anger shut up his compassion?”

P Then I said, “I will appeal to this,

C To the years of the right hand of the Most High.”

P I will remember the deeds of the Lord;

C Yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

P I will ponder all your work,

C And meditate on your mighty deeds.

P Your way, O God, is holy.

C What god is great like our God?

P You are the God who works wonders;

C You have made known your might among the peoples.

P You with your arm redeemed your people,

C The children of Jacob and Joseph.

P When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid;

C Indeed, the deep trembled.

P The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder;

C Your arrows flashed on every side.

P The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world;

C The earth trembled and shook.

P Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters;

C Yet your footprints were unseen.

P You led your people like a flock

C By the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 42

P As a deer pants for flowing streams,

C So pants my soul for you, O God.

P My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

C When shall I come and appear before God?

- P** My tears have been my food day and night,
- C** **While they say to me continually, “Where is your God?”**
- P** These things I remember, as I pour out my soul:
- C** **How I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival.**
- P** Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?
- C** **Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.**
- P** My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls;
- C** **All your breakers and your waves have gone over me.**
- P** By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me,
- C** **A prayer to the God of my life. I say to God, my rock: “Why have you forgotten me?”**
- P** Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?” As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me,
- C** **While they say to me continually, “Where is your God?” Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?**
- P** Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Holy Gospel

John 7:37-39

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the seventh chapter.

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

³⁷ On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. ³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

LSB 761

- 1** Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
- 2** Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy Law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.
- 3** Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die.
- 4** While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

Homily

Creedal Hymn

- 1** In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.
He graciously grants us our years and our days
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.
- 2** In Jesus the Savior our hope is secured;
True God and true man once the cross he endured
To grant our lives wholeness; forgiveness of sin,
With hearts freed from guilt we know true peace within.

- 3 **God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess**
 With power and truth the Church now he does bless.
 As Saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then
 Be living in glory forever! Amen!

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.**

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 Hearken 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

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

LSB 699 (tune444)

- 1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
 Thy head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
 So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
 And he has made me glad.
- 2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
 Stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank
 Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 And now I live in him.
- 3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 "I am this dark world's light.
Look unto me; thy morn shall rise
 And all thy day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found
 In him my star, my sun;

**And in that light of life I'll walk
Till trav'ling days are done.**

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!



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Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people,
proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

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