

**BEHOLD,
THE VIRGIN**
shall conceive and
bear a son, and
shall call his name

Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14, ESV



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

Advent Midweek Worship

December 18, 2024

Jesus, Name Above All Names

LSB 970

- 1 **Jesus, name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessè Redeemer, living Word.**
- 2 **Jesus, name above all names,
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us,
Blessè Redeemer, living Word.**

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

Isaiah 7:1-17

When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.

² Now the house of David was told, "Aram has allied itself with Ephraim"; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

³ Then the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer's Field. ⁴ Say to him, 'Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. ⁵ Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah's son have plotted your ruin, saying, ⁶ "Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it." ⁷ Yet this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

“It will not take place,
it will not happen,

⁸ for the head of Aram is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is only Rezin.

Within sixty-five years

Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.

⁹ The head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is only Remaliah’s son.

If you do not stand firm in your faith,
you will not stand at all.”

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. ¹⁷ The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Psalm 69

P Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.

C I sink in deep mire, where there is no foothold;

P I have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over me.

C I am weary with my crying out; my throat is parched.

P My eyes grow dim with waiting for my God.

C More in number than the hairs of my head are those who hate me without cause;

P Mighty are those who would destroy me, those who attack me with lies.

C What I did not steal must I now restore?

P O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not

hidden from you.

C **Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me,**

P O LORD, Lord of hosts; let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me,

C **O God of Israel. For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, that dishonor has covered my face.**

P I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons.

C **For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.**

P When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting, it became my reproach.

C **When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them.**

P I am the talk of those who sit in the gate, and the drunkards make songs about me.

C **But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. At an acceptable time, O God, in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness.**

P Deliver me from sinking in the mire; let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep waters.

C **Let not the flood sweep over me, or the deep swallow me up, or the pit close its mouth over me.**

P Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

C **Hide not your face from your servant; for I am in distress; make haste to answer me.**

P Draw near to my soul, redeem me; ransom me because of my enemies!

C **You know my reproach, and my shame and my dishonor; my foes are all known to you.**

P Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair.

C **I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none.**

P They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

C **Let their own table before them become a snare; and when they are at peace, let it become a trap.**

P Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see, and make

their loins tremble continually.

C **Pour out your indignation upon them, and let your burning anger overtake them.**

P May their camp be a desolation; let no one dwell in their tents.

C **For they persecute him whom you have struck down, and they recount the pain of those you have wounded.**

P Add to them punishment upon punishment; may they have no acquittal from you.

C **Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous.**

P But I am afflicted and in pain; let your salvation, O God, set me on high!

C **I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.**

P This will please the LORD more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs.

C **When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive.**

P For the LORD hears the needy and does not despise his own people who are prisoners.

C **Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them.**

P For God will save Zion and build up the cities of Judah,

C **The offspring of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall dwell in it.**

Second Reading

Isaiah 8:1-10

The Lord said to me, "Take a large scroll and write on it with an ordinary pen: Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz." ² So I called in Uriah the priest and Zechariah son of Jeberekiah as reliable witnesses for me. ³ Then I made love to the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the Lord said to me, "Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. ⁴ For before the boy knows how to say 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of Assyria."

⁵ The Lord spoke to me again:

⁶ "Because this people has rejected
the gently flowing waters of Shiloah
and rejoices over Rezin

- and the son of Remaliah,
7 therefore the Lord is about to bring against them
the mighty floodwaters of the Euphrates—
the king of Assyria with all his pomp.
It will overflow all its channels,
run over all its banks
8 and sweep on into Judah, swirling over it,
passing through it and reaching up to the neck.
Its outspread wings will cover the breadth of your land,
Immanuel!”
9 Raise the war cry, you nations, and be shattered!
Listen, all you distant lands.
Prepare for battle, and be shattered!
Prepare for battle, and be shattered!
10 Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted;
propose your plan, but it will not stand,
for God is with us.
L This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 143

- P** Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
C In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
P Enter not into judgment with your servant,
C For no one living is righteous before you.
P For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to
the ground;
C The has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.
P Therefore my spirit faints within me;
C My heart within me is appalled.
P I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have
done;
C I ponder the work of your hands.
P I stretch out my hands to you;
C My soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
P Answer me quickly, O LORD! My spirit fails!
C Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go
down to the pit.
P Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I

trust.

C Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

P Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

C I have fled to you for refuge!

P Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

C Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

P For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!

C In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

P And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies,

C And you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul, for I am your servant.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

LSB 357 v. 1-4

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

ref *Rejoice! 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*

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *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*

Homily

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

LSB 357 v. 5-7

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*

6 O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *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*

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

O Sing of Christ

LSB 362

1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known

The kindness of the Lord,

Eternal Word made flesh and bone

So we could be restored.

Upon our frail humanity

God's finger chose to trace

The fullness of his deity,

The icon of his grace.

2 What Adam lost, none could reclaim,

And Paradise was barred

Until the second Adam came

To mend what sin had marred.

For when the time was full and right

**God sent his only Son;
He came to us as life and light
And our redemption won.**

**3 He came to that which was his own,
But he was not received;
Yet still through him God's glory shone,
And some his name believed.
To these he gave the right to be
The heirs of heav'n above,
Born not of human ancestry
But born of God in love.**

**4 Lord Jesus Christ, you deigned to dwell
Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel,
To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, you willingly became
One with our poverty,
That we might share your wealth and name
For all eternity!**

Advent Benediction

P May God be with you as you keep watch for the One whose Advent is promised.

G Amen.

P May God embolden your witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way.

G Amen.

P May you be found ready and alert at Christ's return, at peace in body, mind and spirit, and doing his will.

G Amen.

P And may God almighty, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

G Amen.

Sending

P Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!