


Advent

Midweek Three

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 16, 2020 ~ Midweek Advent Three

MIDWEEK ADVENT 3

DECEMBER 16, 2020

WELCOME to all who are attending our service today. We are glad you are with us! To all guests and visitors, we especially extend our hands of friendship. May God bless the worship time for each one of you. Please come again!

NURSERY AVAILABLE We have an unstaffed nursery for your convenience and privacy. The nursery has audio and video so you may hear and see the worship service while attending to your child.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated at the 8:30 service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and at the 11:00 service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

P = Pastor, **C** = Congregation, **A** = Reader/Assisting)

✠ PREPARATION ✠

Theme: “Jesus: The Son of Joseph”

AS WE GATHER

In Jesus’ genealogy, we recognize Joseph, the head of Jesus’ earthly family. At the time of Jesus’ birth, Joseph was caring, not wanting to shame his fiancée Mary, and he was obedient, naming her Son Jesus. Yet Joseph is not mentioned in the Bible after the account of Jesus’ getting “lost” in the temple when He was twelve years old. But God did not forget Joseph! “Jesus” means “Savior,” and He is Joseph’s Savior, the Savior of all the unknown people in and out of His family tree, and our Savior. God remembers all people, well-known or not, and He has forgiven and forgotten all our sins, their penalty paid by Joseph’s “adopted” Son. Come quickly, Son of Joseph.

PRELUDE

“Messiah, Come” (Medley)

Arr. Christy James

Phyllis Ernsberger, violin

WELCOME

SONG

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

While we are waiting, come,
While we are waiting, come,
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

With pow’r and glory, come,
With pow’r and glory, come,
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

Come, Savior, quickly come,
Come, Savior, quickly come,
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Jeremiah 31:31, 34; 1 Corinthians 1:27, 31; Matthew 1:20, 25*

P Jeremiah recorded the Lord’s promise, “I will make a new covenant.
C **I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”**

P Paul reminds his readers, “God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise.
C **Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”**

P The angel told Joseph, “Do not fear to take Mary as your wife.”
C **Joseph “called His name Jesus.”**

✠ PSALMODY ✠

PSALM 25:1-15

(tune: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel")

C sings:

**To You, O Lord, I lift my soul.
I trust You, God, to make me whole.**

Let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to You be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

C sings:

**Show me, O Lord, the way to go;
Teach me Your righteous paths to know.**

Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation. I always trust in You.

C sings:

**In steadfast love remember me.
Your paths of goodness let me see.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions. According to Your steadfast love remember me for the sake of Your goodness, O Lord.

C sings:

**To You, O Lord, I lift my soul.
I trust You, God, to make me whole.**

Because the Lord is righteous and good, He teaches sinners the path they should follow. He leads the humble in the right way and teaches them His will.

C sings:

**Show me, O Lord, the way to go;
Teach me Your righteous paths to know.**

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep His covenant and His decrees.

C sings:

**In steadfast love remember me.
Your paths of goodness let me see.**

For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

C sings: **To You, O Lord, I lift my soul.
I trust You, God, to make me whole.**

Who are they that fear the Lord? He will teach them the way that they should choose. They will abide in prosperity, and their children shall possess the land. The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and He makes His covenant known to them.

C sings: **Show me, O Lord, the way to go;
Teach me Your righteous paths to know.**

My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for He will pluck my feet out of the net.

C sings: **In steadfast love remember me.
Your paths of goodness let me see.
✠ READINGS ✠**

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31–34 (ESV)

(God promises that a new covenant will be written
on the hearts of even the least of His people.)

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:26–31 (ESV)

(Most of those whom God has chosen are weak, lowly, common people.
Our boasting, therefore, must be only about our Lord.)

²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the

strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE *(from the Great “O” Antiphons)*

P The word “prudent” is defined as “Acting with or showing care and thought for the future.” Joseph was prudent, and this too is a gift for which we pray.

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

C **Come and teach us the way of prudence.**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Lord of great and small, And hear us, Savior, as we call.
For even those the world can’t see, Thou came to save eternally.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

HOLY GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18–25 (ESV)

(Although he thought about divorcing Mary quietly, Joseph obeys the angel’s command, takes Mary, and names her Son Jesus, God among us to save us from our sins.)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a Son. And he called His name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

RESPONSORY *Based on Jeremiah 31:31, 34; 1 Corinthians 1:28; Matthew 1:21*

P The days are coming when I will make a new covenant.

C **I will remember their sin no more.**

P God chose what is low and despised in the world.

C **I will remember their sin no more.**

P You shall call His name Jesus.

C **I will remember their sin no more.**

MEDLEY

“Emmanuel”

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.
(sing twice)

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

Jesus, Name above all names, Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Jesus, Loving Shepherd, Vine of the branches, Son of God,
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

Jesus, Name above all names, Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

SERMON

“Jesus: The Son of Joseph”

Matthew 1:16
Pastor Jim Sprengle

MAGNIFICAT

“My Soul Magnifies the Lord” (tune: “Oh, Blest the House”)

Luke 1:46-55

My soul now magnifies the Lord;
My spirit leaps for joy in Him.
He keeps me in His kind regard,
And I am blest for time to come.

For He alone who shows such might
Has done amazing things to me.
His mercy flows; His name like light
Remains in time perpetually.

His arm is strong; His strength is great.
He scatters those of proud intent,
And casts them down from high estate;
Then gives the low His nourishment.

He feeds the hungry as His own;
The wealthy leave with empty hands.
He gives His help to Israel;
His gracious promise always stands.

PRAYERS

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, guide and protect clergy and lay leaders of Your Church. Enable them to lift people’s hearts and minds to look beyond global pandemics, natural disasters, and political upheavals to see the eternal Kingdom, which You have graciously opened to all people who trust in You for life and health and peace. Bless those who till the soil, manage farms, transport supplies, and distribute food and clothing where they are needed. Son of David,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty Lord, give wisdom and courage to those who lead governments, command armed forces, and maintain order in society. Give them hearts to seek peace so that warfare with neighbor states and civil strife within them give way to prosperity, health, and cooperation. Increase our faith to depend on Your eternal promises of the better country that awaits us by grace. Son of Abraham,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Jesus, Light of the world, open the hearts of all who are burdened by their scandals and other past sins. Surround them with faithful people to tell them about Your coming in human history to give Yourself for them. Protect and guide all law enforcement personnel, first responders, health care workers, and counselors. Help them balance justice, mercy, and compassionate care so that many may have their lives repaired and hope restored. Son of God,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Lord, cared for by Your adopted human father, Joseph, remember people like him, those who have been forgotten, whether dispossessed, incarcerated, or isolated for any reason. Remember not their sins and iniquities but give them a sense of Your abiding presence. Nurture in us all a love for Your will so that we obediently do whatever You ask. Son of Joseph,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Servant Savior, born in a stable to a lowly Virgin, remind us again that You turn the world's ways upside down. Give strength to the weak, lift up the downtrodden, provide hope for the despairing, announce peace to the distraught, and proclaim eternal forgiveness to all burdened by their sin. Son of Mary,

C **hear our prayer.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C **Amen.**

HYMN

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

Comfort, comfort now my people,
Tell of peace so says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
Mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
That God's pardon waits for them,
Tell them that their war is over,
God will reign in peace forever.

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
And the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That God's Word is never broken!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God!**

THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

Matthew 1:1–16

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of **David**, the son of **Abraham**.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by **Rahab**, and Boaz the father of Obed by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the **wife of Uriah**, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the

father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of **Joseph** the husband of **Mary**, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

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Ascension Lutheran Church and School

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Church Office Hours: Monday–Friday 9am to 3pm

Our Mission Statement: Go and Share Jesus Christ

Our Vision Statement: Take part... Join Jesus on His mission

The members of Ascension Lutheran Church are committed to being God's witnesses in Gresham, and in all of Portland and the Northwest, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8): With the universal Christian Church, we believe, teach and respond to the love of the Triune God—the Father, Creator of all that exists; the Son Jesus Christ, Who left His home in Heaven to become flesh and blood, to suffer and die for the sins of all peoples of the world, and Who rose from the grave, victorious over sin, death and the devil, that we too might live with Him in Heaven; and the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts in Christ Jesus through God's Word and Sacrament. The three Persons of the Holy Trinity are one God, co-equal and co-eternal. The core teachings of our faith from the Lutheran perspective can be summarized in three short phrases: Grace alone, Scripture alone, Faith alone.

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