

GOD'S LOVE AT CHRISTMAS



ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

NOVEMBER 30, ST. PAUL

DECEMBER 7, IMMANUEL

DECEMBER 14, ST. PAUL

IMMANUEL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DECEMBER 21

✠ IN NOMINE JESU CHRISTI ✠

ADVENT MIDWEEK 1 — VESPERS SERVICE THE ORDER OF VESPERS, TLH P. 41

(There is no opening hymn for Vespers)

PSALM 24:1-10

- ¹ The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,
² for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.
³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.
⁵ He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
⁶ Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *Selah*
⁷ Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
⁸ Who is this King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!
⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
¹⁰ Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory!

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.

READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT JEREMIAH 23:1–8

“Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. Therefore thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the Lord. Then I will gather the remnant of my

flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the Lord.

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’”

“Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ but ‘As the Lord lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT LUKE 1:5–25

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will

be fulfilled in their time.” And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

L In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

SERMON HYMN

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee”

(TLH #58-First Tune stz. 1-4)

SERMON

“God’s Love Covers Me with Christ”

Jeremiah 23:5–8

FOR THE MAGNIFICAT WE WILL SUBSTITUTE BY SINGING

“My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord” (TLH #275)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

L Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee”

(TLH #58-First Tune stz. 5-9)

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠