

GOD'S LOVE AT CHRISTMAS



ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICES

DECEMBER 7, IMMANUEL
DECEMBER 14, ST. PAUL

IMMANUEL CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DECEMBER 21

✠ IN NOMINE JESU CHRISTI ✠

ADVENT MIDWEEK 2 — VESPERS SERVICE THE ORDER OF VESPERS, TLH P. 41

(There is no opening hymn for Vespers)

PSALM 50: 1-15

I will de- | liver you*

and you shall glo- | rify me.

The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks and sum- | mons the earth*
from the rising of the sun to its | setting.

Out of Zion, the perfection of | beauty,*

God | shines forth.

Our God comes; he does not keep | silence;*

before him is a devouring fire, around him a mighty | tempest.

He calls to the heav- | ens above*

and to the earth, that he may judge his | people:

“Gather to me my | faithful ones,*

who made a covenant with me by | sacrifice!”

The heavens declare his | righteousness,*

for God him- | self is judge!

“Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify a- | gainst you.*

I am | God, your God.

Not for your sacrifices do I re- | buke you;*

your burnt offerings are continually be- | fore me.

I will not accept a bull | from your house*

or goats | from your folds.

For every beast of the for- | est is mine,*

the cattle on a | thousand hills.

I know all the birds | of the hills,*

and all that moves in the | field is mine.

“If I were hungry, I would not | tell you,*

for the world and its full- | ness are mine.

Do I eat the | flesh of bulls*

or drink the | blood of goats?

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanks- | giving,*

and perform your vows to the | Most High,

and call upon me in the day of | trouble;*

I will deliver you, and you shall glo- | rify me.”

**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 MALACHI 4:1-6

¹ “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³ And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

⁴ “Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵ “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT LUKE 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

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

“Praise We the Lord This Day”

(TLH #274)

SERMON

“God’s Love Stirs Our Hearts”

Malachi 4:1-6

FOR THE MAGNIFICAT WE WILL SUBSTITUTE BY SINGING

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

COLLECT OF THE DAY

L Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

(TLH #72)

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠