



# Advent Midweek Two

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*"A Church for Families and a Family for Everyone"*  
Advent 2 Midweek ~December 7, 2022

## **ADVENT MIDWEEK 2**

**December 7, 2022**

**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!

**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.

### **✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**THEME: The Bible, Our Book of Advents**  
**“Surely the Lord Is in This Place”**

**AS WE GATHER:** When we think of Christ as God descending to us in our needs and ascending to lead us to the Father, we experience advents not only on Sunday but also during the week.

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME**

**HYMN      “Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”**

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,  
Once for ev'ry sinner slain;  
Thousand thousand saints attending  
Swell the triumph of His train:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him  
Robed in glorious majesty;  
Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
Shall their true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of His passion  
Still His dazzling body bears,  
Cause of endless exultation  
To His ransomed worshipers.  
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture  
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,  
High on Thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,  
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

## INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

## SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray. 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.**

## ☩ THE WORD ☩

### PSALM (selected verses from Psalm 105)

- P** This psalm rejoices that God kept His promise to give Abraham the land—and that He remembers His everlasting covenants.
- He remembered His holy promise, and Abraham, His servant.
- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!
- C** **Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;  
tell of all His wondrous works!**
- P** Glory in His holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
- C** **Seek the LORD and His strength;  
seek His presence continually!**

- P** Remember the wondrous works that He has done,  
His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,
- C** **O offspring of Abraham, His servant,  
children of Jacob, His chosen ones!**
- P** He is the LORD our God;  
His judgments are in all the earth.
- C** **He remembers His covenant forever,  
the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations,**
- P** the covenant that He made with Abraham,  
His sworn promise to Isaac,
- C** **which He confirmed to Jacob as a statute,  
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,**
- P** saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan  
as your portion for an inheritance."
- C** **For He remembered his holy promise,  
and Abraham, His servant.**
- P** So He brought His people out with joy,  
His chosen ones with singing.
- C** **And He gave them the lands of the nations,  
and they took possession of the fruit of the peoples' toil,**
- P** that they might keep His statutes  
and observe His laws.
- C** **Praise the LORD!  
He remembered His holy promise,  
and Abraham, His servant.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

## Genesis 28:10–17 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beersheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup> And he came to a certain place and stayed there that night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place to sleep. <sup>12</sup> And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! <sup>13</sup> And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. <sup>14</sup> Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth,

and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. <sup>15</sup> Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

<sup>16</sup> Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” <sup>17</sup> And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**John 1:43–51 (ESV)**

<sup>43</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” <sup>44</sup> Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. <sup>45</sup> Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” <sup>46</sup> Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” <sup>47</sup> Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” <sup>48</sup> Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” <sup>49</sup> Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” <sup>50</sup> Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” <sup>51</sup> And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## HYMN

### “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

**MESSAGE “Surely the Lord Is in This Place” Genesis 28:10–17**  
**Pastor Jim Sprengle**

**PRAYERS** (following each petition)

**P** “Lord, in Your mercy,”  
**C** “hear our prayer.”

**THE LORD’S PRAYER** (*Mt 6:9ff; Lk 11:2ff*)

**P** Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**C** **Our Father Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in  
Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us  
our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against  
us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from  
evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the  
glory, forever and ever. 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

### “God Himself Is Present”

God Himself is present:  
Let us now adore Him  
And with awe appear before Him.  
God is in His temple;  
All within keep silence;  
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.  
He alone On His throne  
Is our God and Savior;  
Praise His name forever!

God Himself is present:  
Hear the harps resounding;  
See the hosts the throne surrounding.  
“Holy, holy, holy!”  
Hear the hymn ascending,  
Songs of saints and angels blending.  
Bow Your ear To us here:  
Hear, O Christ, the praises  
That Your Church now raises.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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