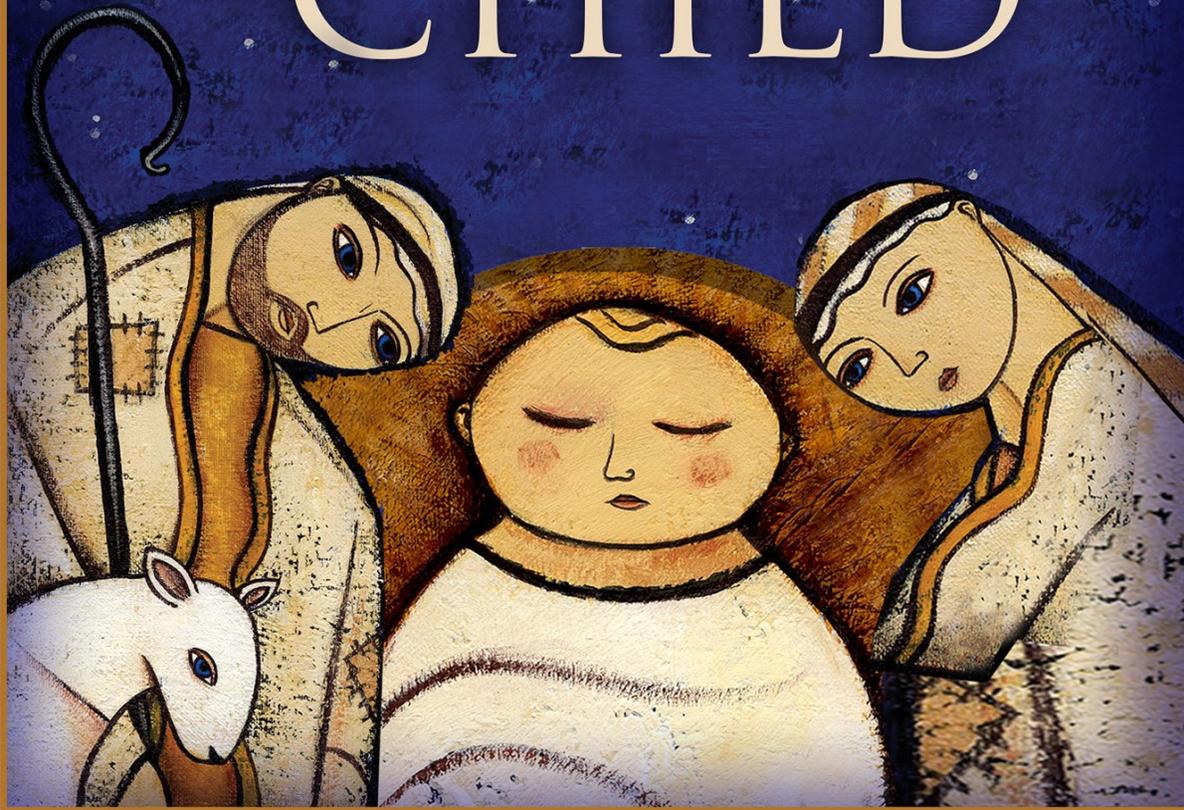


# BEHOLD *The* CHILD



**December 7 , 2022**  
**Advent Midweek 2**

**Concordia Lutheran Church**

DECEMBER 7, 2022  
MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2

EVENING PRAYER

TO SET YOU FREE FROM ALL YOUR SORROW

Ignorance is bliss. Our excuses for remaining uninformed, even when supported by an aphorism, fall apart in the light of the truth. Willful ignorance is not a virtue. Indeed, it goes hand in hand with unbelief.

That is among the lessons flowing from the Magi and Herod. The Magi follow the star, knowing what is true. The One who has been born is King, worthy of being worshiped. Herod, on the other hand, gets the right information from others about where the birth of the King took place, but he remains aloof to the truth. Instead of paying homage, he plots to kill.

Ignorance is not bliss. It destroys faith because faith feeds on the truth. Ignorance also robs us of joy, especially when it comes to the truth of who Christ is. The Magi know who He is, so they rejoice greatly.

We join them in rejoicing because the truth has been given us. Jesus comes,

Lying helpless in a manger, poor and bare and lowly,  
To set you free from all your sorrow wholly.

**THE QUEMPAS CAROL**

*Quem pastores*

**P** He whom shepherds once came praising,  
Awed by heav'nly light ablazing,  
Cheered by angel news amazing:  
"King of glory, Christ is born!"

*Nunc angelorum*

**C** The glorious angels came today,  
Aglow with light into the night of darkness deep,  
To shepherds who by moon's bright ray  
Did in the field o'er sheep their silent vigil keep.  
"Joy, great joy and tidings glad we bring from heav'n resounding,  
For you, for you and all the world abounding."

*Resonet in laudibus*

**P** God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;  
**C** God the Father is reconciled, is reconciled!

*Stand*

**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.**

## PHOS HILARON

*LSB*, p. 244

**L** Joyous light of glory:

**C** **of the immortal Father;  
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.  
We have come to the setting of the sun,  
and we look to the evening light.  
We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:  
You are worthy of being praised  
with pure voices forever.  
O Son of God, O Giver of life:  
the universe proclaims Your glory.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

*LSB*, p. 245

**L** Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

+ PSALMODY +

## PSALM 141

*LSB*, p. 245

**P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**C** **O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I cry to You.**

**P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**C** **Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,  
and guard the door of my lips.**

**P** Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;  
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.

**C** **But my eyes are turned to You, O God;  
in You I take refuge.  
Strip me not of my life.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
**Let my prayer rise before You as incense,**  
**the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

**P** Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

**C** Amen.

**PSALM**

*Psalm 72:1–19; antiphon: v. 18 (Tone F or E)*

**P** Give the king Your justice, O God,  
and Your righteousness to the royal son!

**C** **May He judge your people with righteousness,**  
**and Your poor with justice!**

**P** Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness!

**C** **May He defend the cause of the poor of the people,**  
**give deliverance to the children of the needy,**  
**and crush the oppressor!**

**P** May they fear You while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

**C** **May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass,**  
**like showers that water the earth!**

**P** In His days may the righteous flourish,  
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

**C** **May He have dominion from sea to sea,**  
**and from the River to the ends of the earth!**

**P** May desert tribes bow down before Him,  
and His enemies lick the dust!

**C** **May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands**  
**render Him tribute;**  
**may the kings of Sheba and Seba**  
**bring gifts!**

**P** May all kings fall down before Him,  
all nations serve Him!

**C** **For He delivers the needy when he calls,**  
**the poor and him who has no helper.**

**P** He has pity on the weak and the needy,  
and saves the lives of the needy.

**C** **From oppression and violence He redeems their life,**  
**and precious is their blood in His sight.**

- P** Long may He live;  
 may gold of Sheba be given to Him!  
 May prayer be made for Him continually,  
 and blessings invoked for Him all the day!
- C** **May there be abundance of grain in the land;  
 on the tops of the mountains may it wave;  
 may its fruit be like Lebanon;  
 and may people blossom in the cities  
 like the grass of the field!**
- P** May His name endure forever,  
 His fame continue as long as the sun!  
 May people be blessed in Him,  
 all nations call Him blessèd!
- C** **Blessèd be the LORD, the God of Israel,  
 who alone does wondrous things.**
- P** Blessèd be His glorious name forever;  
 may the whole earth be filled with His glory!  
 Amen and Amen!
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
 and to the Holy Spirit;  
 as it was in the beginning,  
 is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

#### OFFICE HYMN

“As with Gladness Men of Old” (*LSB 397*)

- 1 **As with gladness men of old  
 Did the guiding star behold;  
     As with joy they hailed its light,  
     Leading onward, beaming bright;  
 So, most gracious Lord, may we  
 Evermore be led by Thee.**
- 2 **As with joyful steps they sped,  
 Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
     There to bend the knee before  
     Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;  
 So may we with willing feet  
 Ever seek Thy mercy seat.**
- 3 **As they offered gifts most rare  
 At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
     So may we with holy joy,  
     Pure and free from sin’s alloy,  
 All our costliest treasures bring,  
 Christ, to Thee, our heav’nly King.**
- 4 **Holy Jesus, ev’ry day  
 Keep us in the narrow way;  
     And when earthly things are past,  
     Bring our ransomed souls at last  
 Where they need no star to guide,  
 Where no clouds Thy glory hide.**

**5 In the heav'nly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
Thou its sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King.**

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+ READINGS +

FIRST READING

*Micah 5:2–5a*

**P** A reading from Micah, the fifth chapter.

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for Me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore He shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of His brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> And He shall be their peace.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

*1 Peter 1:3–9*

**P** A reading from First Peter, the first chapter.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> So that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### THIRD READING

*Matthew 2:1–12*

**P** A reading from Matthew, the second chapter.

<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is He who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw His star when it rose and have come to worship Him.” <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd My people Israel.””

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him.” <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

### SERMON

**“To Set You Free from All Your Sorrow”**

+ CANTICLE +

*Stand*

### MAGNIFICAT

*LSB, p. 248*

**P** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

**C** **For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.  
For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.  
For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;  
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of  
their hearts.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.  
He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his seed forever.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## OFFERING HYMN

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness” (LSB 849)

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris’ners,  
Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,  
Healing ev’ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands  
With the very Bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons  
With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
To the desert’s burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water,  
Quenching thirst in ev’ry land.
- 3 Let us praise the Word Incarnate,  
Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious  
That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer,  
Praise the One who makes us one.

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+ PRAYER +

*Kneel/Stand*

## LITANY

LSB, p. 249

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For Matthew Harrison, Brian Saunders, and for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For Joseph Biden, Kamala Harris, and Kim Reynolds, and for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**C** **Alleluia.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

**C** **To You, O Lord.**

## COLLECT FOR PEACE

*LSB, p. 251*

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*LSB, p. 251*

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.

*Stand*

**BENEDICAMUS**

*LSB, p. 252*

- P** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

**BENEDICTION**

*LSB, p. 252*

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.  
**C** Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN**

**“Once He Came in Blessing” (*LSB 333*)**

- 1** Once He came in blessing,  
All our sins redressing;  
Came in likeness lowly,  
Son of God most holy;  
Bore the cross to save us;  
Hope and freedom gave us.
- 2** Now He gently leads us;  
With Himself He feeds us  
Precious food from heaven,  
Pledge of peace here given,  
Manna that will nourish  
Souls that they may flourish.
- 3** Soon will come that hour  
When with mighty power  
Christ will come in splendor  
And will judgment render,  
With the faithful sharing  
Joy beyond comparing.
- 4** Come, then, O Lord Jesus,  
From our sins release us.  
Keep our hearts believing,  
That we, grace receiving,  
Ever may confess You  
Till in heav'n we bless You.

**Acknowledgments**

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