

## MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3

### JESUS, THE LIFE OF JESSE'S TREE

#### AS WE GATHER

“This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17). What a beautiful proclamation from the Father! Jesus is more than meets the eye—more than a mere man. He is the Son of God. Yet, His identity will be challenged. Immediately following His Baptism, Jesus is tempted by Satan in the wilderness. He tempts, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread” (Luke 4:3). But Jesus remains faithful and does not sin. Then, at the cross, we hear a similar temptation from those gathered, “If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross” (Matthew 27:40). But again, Jesus remains faithful, doing the will of His Father. Rejoice that for Jesus’ sake, God looks at you as His baptized child and says, “This is My beloved son, my beloved daughter, with whom I am well pleased.” What a beautiful proclamation from our heavenly Father!

#### + PREPARATION +

#### HYMN

“What Hope! An Eden Prophesied” (*LSB* 342)

What hope! An Eden prophesied  
Where tame live with the wild;  
The lamb and lion side by side,  
Led by a little child!

A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem,  
A branch from David's line,  
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:  
The fruit of God's design.

As banner of God's love unfurled,  
Christ came to suffer loss,  
That by His death a dying world  
Would rally to the cross.

Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,  
Lost Paradise restore;  
Lead past the angel's flaming sword—  
Come, open heaven's door.

## INVOCATION

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

## OPENING SENTENCES

*Isaiah 11:1; Romans 6:4; Matthew 3:17*

- P** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
**C** and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- P** We were buried therefore with Him  
**C** by baptism into death, in order that,  
**P** just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,  
**C** we too might walk in newness of life.
- P** Behold, a voice from heaven said,  
**C** “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

## SERVICE OF LIGHT

- 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.
- P** Awaiting the shoot from the stump of Jesse, we implore:  
**C** Come, Lord Jesus.

## HYMN OF LIGHT

“O God of God, O Light of Light” (LSB 810)

1 O God of God, O Light of Light,  
O Prince of Peace and King of kings:  
To you in heaven’s glory bright  
The song of praise forever rings.  
To Him who sits upon the throne,  
The Lamb once slain but raised again,  
Be all the glory He has won,  
All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.

2 For deep in prophets' sacred page,  
And grand in poets' wingèd word,  
Slowly in type, from age to age  
The nations saw their coming Lord;  
Till through the deep Judean night  
Rang out the song, "Goodwill to men!"  
Sung once by firstborn sons of light,  
It echoes now, "Goodwill!" Amen.

3 That life of truth, those deeds of love,  
That death so steeped in hate and scorn—  
These all are past, and now above  
He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.  
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates!  
So sang that host beyond our ken.  
Lift up your heads, your King awaits.  
We lift them up. Amen, amen.

4 Then raise to Christ a mighty song,  
And shout His name, His mercies tell!  
Sing, heav'nly host, your praise prolong,  
And all on earth, your anthem swell!  
All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain!  
Forever let the song ascend!  
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign,  
All glory, pow'r! Amen, amen.

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#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who revealed who Jesus truly is, bringing to light His identity as You proclaimed, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and 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.

PSALM

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

FIRST READING

*Romans 6:1–11*

- P** A reading from Romans, the sixth chapter.

<sup>1</sup> What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup> Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? <sup>4</sup> We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup> For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. <sup>6</sup> We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup> For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup> Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. <sup>9</sup> We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. <sup>10</sup> For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

*Matthew 3:13–17*

- P** A reading from Matthew, the third chapter.
- <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; <sup>17</sup> and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

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

**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.

## MAGNIFICAT

“My Soul Rejoices” (*LSB* 933)

1 My soul rejoices,  
My spirit voices—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
For God my Savior  
Has shown me favor—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
With praise and blessing,  
Join in confessing  
God, who is solely  
Mighty and holy—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
His mercy surely  
Shall rest securely  
On all who fear Him,  
Love and revere Him—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

2 His arm now baring,  
His strength declaring—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
The proud He scatters,  
Their rule He shatters—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
Oppression halted;  
The meek exalted.  
Full are the hungry;  
Empty, the wealthy—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
Here is the token  
All that was spoken  
To Abr’ham’s offspring  
God is fulfilling—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

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## THE LITANY

- 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 our Synodical President, Brian our District President, 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 Donald our President, 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.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

- 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.**
- 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

**☩ 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.**

## SERMON HYMN

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” (*LSB* 344)

1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be ev’ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away  
Like flow’rs that wither and decay.

4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in ev’ry place.

△5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

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## SERMON

## OFFERING

### OFFERING HYMN

“Lord of Our Life” (*LSB* 659)

1 Lord of our life and God of our salvation,  
Star of our night and hope of ev’ry nation:  
Hear and receive Your Church’s supplication,  
Lord God Almighty.

2 See round Your ark the hungry billows curling;  
See how Your foes their banners are unfurling  
And with great spite their fiery darts are hurling,  
O Lord, preserve us.

3 Lord, be our light when worldly darkness veils us;  
Lord, be our shield when earthly armor fails us;  
And in the day when hell itself assails us,  
Grant us Your peace, Lord:

4 Peace in our hearts, where sinful thoughts are raging,  
Peace in Your Church, our troubled souls assuaging,  
Peace when the world its endless war is waging,  
Peace in Your heaven.

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### PRAYER

**P** Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### BLESSING

**P** There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

**C** and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

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

**C** Amen.



1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2 I need Thy presence ev’ry passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter’s pow’r?  
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,  
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;  
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev’ry plea.  
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

4 Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;  
Earth’s joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death’s sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;  
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.  
Heav’n’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

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