

THE OFFICE OF VESPERS – MIDWEEK ADVENT III
16 DECEMBER 2020 + 7 PM

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
902 S Maple – Inglewood, CA 90301-3824
310.671.7644

The Rev. Bruce J von Hindenburg, Pastor
tgsclcms.org

Jesus, the Life of Jesse's Tree



As We Gather

As the celebration of Christ's birth draws near, it is good to remember that the Advent season is about life. God entered this world, which is marred by death, as a vulnerable baby, brimming with the hope of new life. This Christ Child grew up to be the resurrection and the life, so that in the midst of the darkness of death, we have hope for life now and into eternity. Our Advent calling is to let the life we now have in Christ shine forth into the dark places of our world, so that those who dwell in the land of deep darkness may know the light and life of Jesus.

Hymn

342 [What Hope! An Eden Prophesied](#)



1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da - vid's line,
3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

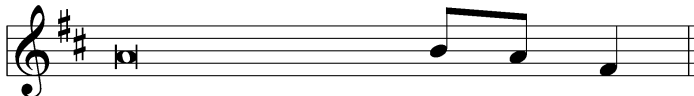
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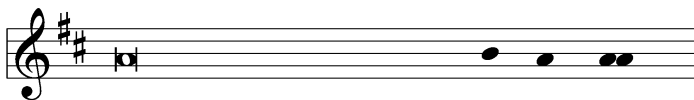
Stand



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 16; antiphon: v. 11

P You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

C Preserve me, O God, for in You I take refuge.

P I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from You.”

C As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

P The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names on my lips.

C The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; You hold my lot.

P The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

C I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

P I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

C Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.

P For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let Your holy one see corruption. You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

All 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

337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending



1 The night will soon be end - ing; The dawn can -
 2 The One whom an - gels tend - ed Comes near, a
 3 The earth in sure ro - ta - tion Will soon bring
 4 Yet nights will bring their sad - ness And rob our
 5 God dwells with us in dark - ness And makes the



not be far. Let songs of praise as - cend - ing Now
 child, to serve; Thus God, the judge of - fend - ed, Bears
 morn - ing bright, So run where God's sal - va - tion Glows
 hearts of peace, And sin in all its mad - ness A -
 night as day; Yet we re - sist the bright - ness And



greet the Morn - ing Star! All you whom dark - ness
 all our sins de - serve. The guilt - y need not
 in a sta - ble's light. As old as sin's per -
 round us may in - crease. But now one Star is
 turn from God a - way. But grace does not for -



fright - ens With guilt or grief or pain, God's ra - diant
 cow - er, For God has rec - on - ciled Through His re -
 ver - sion Is mer - cy's vast de - sign: God brings a
 beam - ing Whose rays have pierced the night: God comes for
 sake us, How - ev - er far we run. God claims us



Star now bright - ens And bids you sing a - gain.
 demp - tive pow - er All those who trust this child.
 new cre - a - tion—This child its seal and sign.
 our re - deem - ing From sin's op - pres - sive might.
 still as chil - dren Through Mar - y's in - fant Son.

Readings

First Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And 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; ¹⁷and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Romans 6:1-11

¹What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We 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.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We 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. ⁷For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.



P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory (Advent)

LSB 230

Verse *To Refrain*

L 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a right-teous Branch.

2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell se - cure - ly.

3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.

Refrain

C This is the name
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righ-teous-ness.

Sermon

Pr von Hindenburg

Catechesis

- P** What is the Magnificat?
- C** It is Latin for “magnify, praise.”
- P** Where is this in Scripture?
- C** It is the first word of the Song of Mary as found in Luke 1:46–55.

Canticle

Stand

L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,

C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Magnificat

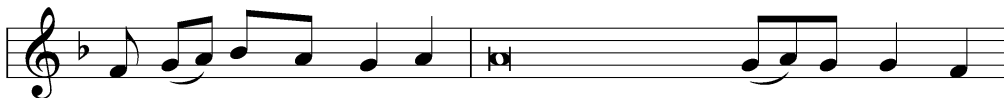
LSB 231



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



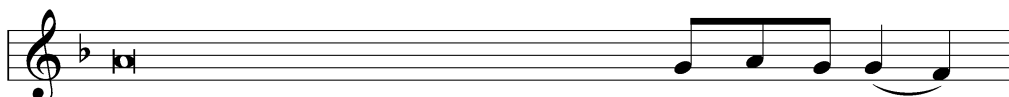
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.




I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.




II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.

Sit

Offering *Collected in the Narthex after service.*

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie

LSB 233



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

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.



The Lord's Prayer (Le Pater Noster),
by [James Tissot](#), [Brooklyn Museum](#)

Collects



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

P Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect

P God of life, into this death-marred world You bring life through Jesus, the resurrection and the life. Fill us with the life of Jesus, so that, in this world so often filled with darkness, our lives may shine forth His life and hope; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for Peace

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.

Stand

Benedicamus

LSB 234



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 234



P The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.



Hymn to Depart

349 [Hark the Glad Sound](#)



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

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Schedule for Christmas Services

Christmas Eve – Thursday, 24 December

Service of Lessons and Carols

beginning with Organ Recital at 3:30pm

Christmas Day – Friday, 25 December

Divine Service at 10am

