

+SERVICE OF VESPERS+

SECOND MIDWEEK IN ADVENT + 13 DECEMBER 2023

*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.*

Micah 5 : 2



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

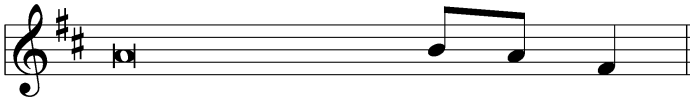
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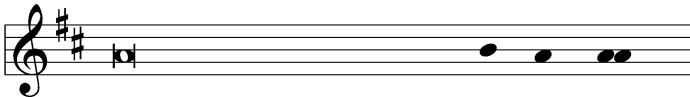
Stand



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

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
 let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

⁸**You brought a vine out of | Egypt;*
 you drove out the nations and | planted it.**

⁹You cleared the | ground for it;*
 it took deep root and | filled the land.

¹⁰**The mountains were covered | with its shade,*
 the mighty cedars with its | branches.**

¹¹It sent out its branches | to the sea*
 and its shoots to the | River.

¹²**Why then have you broken | down its walls,*
 so that all who pass along the way | pluck its fruit?**

¹³The boar from the forest rav- | ages it,*
 and all that move in the field | feed on it.

¹⁴**Turn again, O | God of hosts!*
 Look down from | heaven, and see;
 have regard for this vine,**

¹⁵the stock that your right hand | planted,*
 and for the son whom you made strong | for yourself.

¹⁶**They have burned it with fire; they have | cut it down,*
 may they perish at the rebuke | of your face!**

¹⁷But let your hand be on the man of your | right hand,*
 the son of man whom you have made strong | for yourself!

¹⁸**Then we shall not turn | back from you,*
 give us life, and we will call up- | on your name!**

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts!*
 Let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Sit

Office Hymn

335 O Bride of Christ, Rejoice



1 O bride of Christ, re - joice; Ex - ul - tant raise thy voice
 2 Let shouts of glad - ness rise Tri - um - phant to the skies.
 3 A hum - ble beast He rides, Yet as a King pre - sides;
 4 The weak and tim - id find How meek He is and kind;
 5 Then go thy Lord to meet; Strew palm leaves at His feet;



To hail the day of glo - ry Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Now comes the King most glo-rious To reign o'er all vic - to - rious.
Though not ar - rayed in splen-dor, He makes the grave sur-ren - der.
To them He gives a trea - sure Of bliss be - yond all mea - sure.
Thy gar - ments spread be - fore Him And hon - or and a - dore Him.



Refrain
Ho - san - na, praise, and glo - ry! Our King, we bow be - fore Thee.

Text: Danish, c. 1600; tr. Victor O. Petersen, 1864–1929, alt.
Tune: Der Bussfertige Sünder, 1679, Nürnberg
Text and tune: Public domain

Readings

Reading

Micah 5:2–4

P A reading for the second midweek in Advent is from Micah, chapter 5.

² 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 origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Advent)

LSB 230

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.

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

Hymn of the Day

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

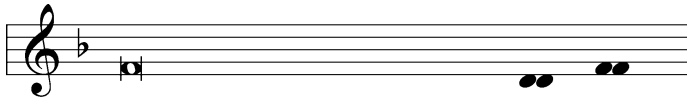
6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the
7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the
9 Ah, Lord, though You cre - at - ed all, How weak You
10 Were earth a thou - sand times as fair And set with

shep - herds let us go To see what God for
in the man - ger lies. Who is this child, so
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my
are, so poor and small, That You should choose to
gold and jew - els rare, It would be far too

us has done In send - ing us His own dear Son.
young and fair? It is the Christ Child ly - ing there.
mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.
lay Your head Where low - ly cat - tle late - ly fed!
poor and small A cra - dle for the Lord of all.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann
Text and tune: Public domain

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

933 My Soul Rejoices

1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
 wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
 to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
 God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622

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Tune: Public domain

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie

LSB 233



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

Lord's Prayer

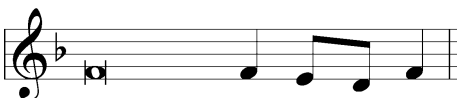
☐ **Our Father who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those**

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.

Collects



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



G And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

P 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.

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.



G A - men.

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

373 See amid the Winter's Snow



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

Refrain

Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.
 Tune: John Goss, 1800-80
 Text and tune: Public domain


From Heaven Above to Earth I Come *Wilbur Held (1914-2015)*

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book
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From Heaven Above to Earth I Come
Midweek Advent Vespers
 Second Midweek in Advent – December 13th @7pm
 Third Midweek in Advent – December 20th @ 7pm

Advent Suppers will be served before service at 6pm in the assembly room.



Joy to the World!
Celebrate Christmas at the Good Shepherd
December 24th Christmas Eve – Divine Service @ 10am
 Organ Recital @ 3:30 pm
 Service of Lessons and Carols @ 4pm

December 25th Christmas Day – Divine Service @ 10am

A Snippet From 1517

*This Messiah is not a continuation—
He is the fulfillment and the beginning of something new.*

The text is Micah 5:2-5a and is perhaps one of the best known and most specific of the Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament. Micah is a younger contemporary with Isaiah and Hosea. In fact, there are portions of Micah which are very similar, even identical to the work of Isaiah. With such important figures prophesying at roughly the same time, this era has often been referred to as “the golden age of prophecy.” It is interesting to consider how some of our most cherished and specific Messianic prophecies come from these three. Hosea 11:1, “Out of Egypt I have called my son...,” Isaiah 7:14, “...a virgin shall conceive and give birth to a son, and you shall call His name Immanuel...,” and our pericope for this Sunday, “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah...” The timetable for Micah’s work is ≈ 739-693 BC.

The specific site of Bethlehem Ephrathah is very significant. This is the birthplace of King David and so it is important that the “New David” should be born here as well. It does help to point out the Messiah is not to be thought of as another king in the line of David, but rather a new David. He is the sprout from the stump of Jesse (Isaiah 11) and begins a whole new thing. This is also supported by the language, “...whose origin is from of old, from ancient days,” which reminds us of One who has “no beginning” but has always been. This Messiah is not a continuation—He is the fulfillment and the beginning of something new.

Like Isaiah, Micah provides us with strong incarnational language as it talks about the one who labors and gives birth. In addition, this Ruler, born of a woman, will provide salvation, peace, and restoration. Thus, Micah 5 is a fitting Old Testament text for the last Sunday of Advent. The closer we get to the event, the more information is shared by the OT prophets. So, Micah gives important, detailed information concerning the fulfillment of the Covenant by the One who is coming. *Jeffrey Pulse, December 2021, 1517.org*

A Prayer for the Week

Lord God, heavenly Father, by Your Son You have revealed to us that heaven and earth shall pass away, that our bodies shall rise again, and that we all shall appear before the judgment seat: We beseech You to keep us in Your Word by Your Holy Spirit; establish us in the true faith, graciously defend us from sin and preserve us in all temptations, that our hearts may not be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, but that we may ever watch and pray and, trusting fully in Your grace, await with joy the glorious coming of Your Son, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

Reflections and Notes

