

# +SERVICE OF VESPERS+

---

+ FIRST MIDWEEK IN ADVENT + 04 DECEMBER 2024 +



## The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

---

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

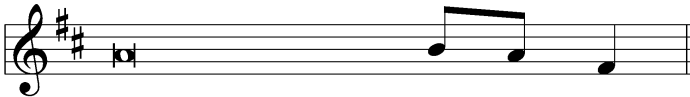
Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

[tgslcms.org](http://tgslcms.org)

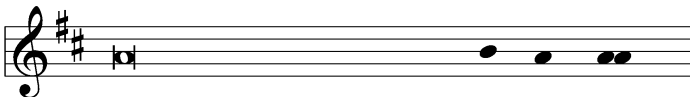
---



**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 50:1–15*

### **God Himself Is Judge**

<sup>1</sup>The Mighty One, God the LORD,  
speaks and summons the earth  
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

<sup>2</sup>**Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God shines forth.**

<sup>3</sup>Our God comes; he does not keep silence;  
before him is a devouring fire,  
around him a mighty tempest.

<sup>4</sup>**He calls to the heavens above  
and to the earth, that he may judge his people:**

<sup>5</sup>"Gather to me my faithful ones,  
who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare his righteousness,  
for God himself is judge!**

<sup>7</sup>"Hear, O my people, and I will speak;  
O Israel, I will testify against you.  
I am God, your God.

<sup>8</sup>**Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you;  
your burnt offerings are continually before me.**

<sup>9</sup>I will not accept a bull from your house  
or goats from your folds.

<sup>10</sup>**For every beast of the forest is mine,  
the cattle on a thousand hills.**

<sup>11</sup>I know all the birds of the hills,  
and all that moves in the field is mine.

<sup>12</sup>**"If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the world and its fullness are mine.**

<sup>13</sup>Do I eat the flesh of bulls  
or drink the blood of goats?

<sup>14</sup>**Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and perform your vows to the Most High,**

<sup>15</sup>and call upon me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

## Office 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.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

## Readings

### Reading

*Malachi 3:1-7b*

<sup>1</sup>"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. <sup>3</sup>He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

<sup>5</sup>"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

### Robbing God

<sup>6</sup>"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. <sup>7</sup>From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them."

**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 Right-teous-ness.

## Hymn

### 343 Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

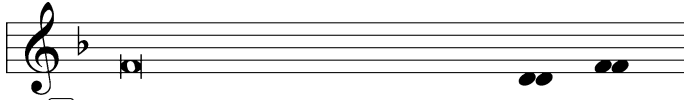
*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

# 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



bles - sing, 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

**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.



**C** 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.



**C** A - men.

*Stand*

## Benedicamus

LSB 234



**L** Let us bless the Lord.

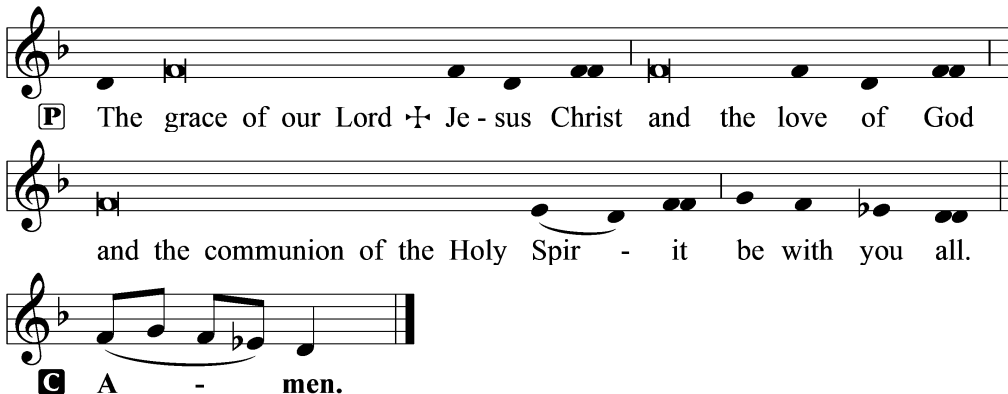


**C** Thanks be to God.



## Benediction

LSB 234

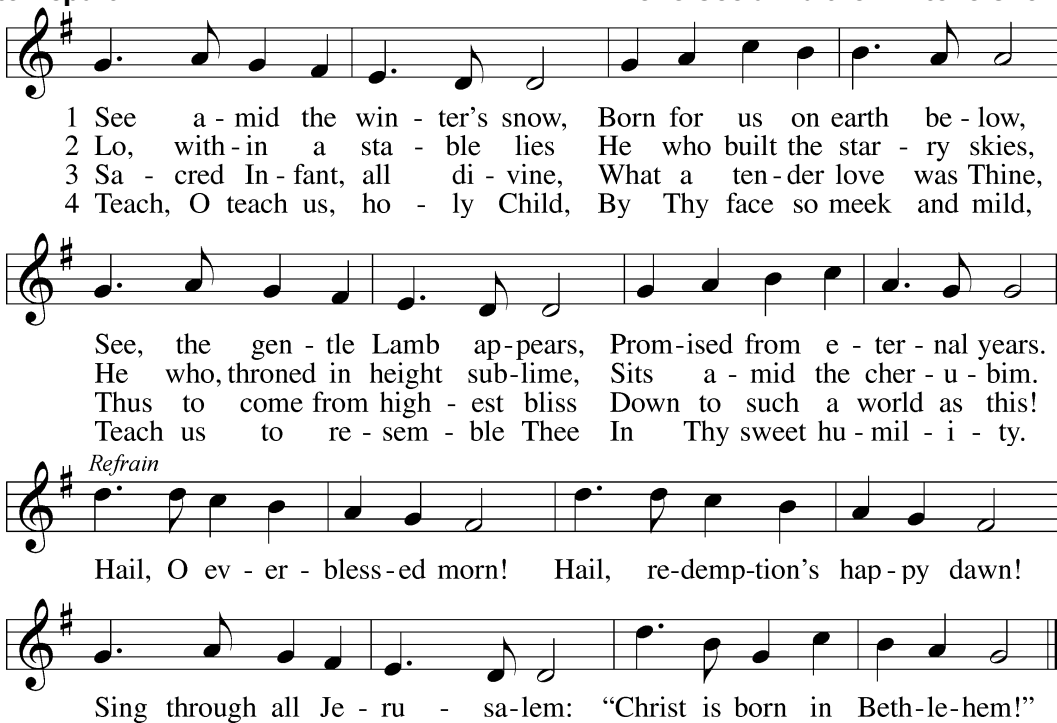


**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.

**G** 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

## Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

## **We welcome you to join us for our Midweek Advent Services!**

Third Midweek in Advent – Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

Advent Suppers will be held in the Assembly Room before service at 6pm.

## **Celebrate Christmas at the Good Shepherd!**

Christmas Eve Organ Recital – Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm

Service of Lessons and Carols- Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4pm

Christmas Day Service – Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am

### **A Snippet From 1517**

#### ***Old Testament: Malachi 3:1-7b (Advent 2: Series C)***

*The Messenger is coming—must come—because the LORD God has promised, and He is unchanging and always faithful no matter how unfaithful His people may be.*

The Old Testament lesson for this Sunday is from the Book of the Twelve, the prophetic writings of Malachi. The text is [Malachi 3:1-7b](#). Malachi is the last recorded prophecy until the coming of the LORD, 400 years later. This makes his message especially powerful and unique. The reference to the “temple” in verse 1 indicates that Malachi is issuing these prophetic words after the return from the Babylonian exile and the rebuilding of the Jerusalem Temple. This provides the historical setting for the text as Malachi focuses our attention ahead—400 years ahead—with his words.

As we read this pericope it is interesting to remember that the name “Malachi” means “my messenger” in Hebrew. In our text, Malachi is not referencing himself when he speaks of messengers, so our task is to identify who he is talking about. In fact, we see he is referring to two messengers. The first messenger in verse one is speaking of the prophet we know as John the Baptizer. He is also referred to as “Elijah” or the “New Elijah” by Isaiah and Malachi. The second to the last verse of the Book of Malachi says, “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD.” The second messenger mentioned in verse one is the “messenger of the covenant.” This is not John the Baptist but is a direct reference to the coming of Christ to His Temple, His incarnational coming into our world. With the coming of both John the Baptizer and Jesus Christ mentioned here it becomes obvious why this text was chosen for the season of Advent.

**3:1** שְׁלַח (sho-le-aCh) root: שָׁלַח (shaw-lakh) Qal participle: “to send” “...am sending”

מְלַאֲכֵי (*mal-a-Chi*) “my messenger” Although this is the same word we translate as “angel”, this is not a reference to an angelic being.

וּפְנָה (*u-pin-nah*) “to remove; empty” The idea is the removal of obstacles, the clearing of the path. It is frequently translated as prepare (prepare the way).

וּפְתֹאֵם (*u-fit-Om*) “suddenly; surprisingly”

הֵי־כֶלֶוֹ (*hei-cha-Lo*) “his temple”

“He (the LORD) will suddenly come to His Temple...,” asks the question, “When?” When does this occur in the New Testament accounts of the Messiah? Obviously, the LORD Jesus visits the Jerusalem Temple on numerous occasions during His earthly life. Does this refer to when Mary and Joseph present Him for circumcision, or when He instructs the elders, or perhaps His cleansing of the Temple, etc.? In [Haggai 2](#) the LORD coming to the Temple is accompanied by an earthquake and smoke/darkness which is a direct reference to the events after Christ’s death on the cross. It is at the moment when the Temple curtain is torn that Jesus goes into the Holy of Holies—the last and greatest High Priest—to place His own blood as the all-availing sacrifice for the sins of the world. In Malachi we do not have any specific indicators, but the word “suddenly” might point us in the same direction as Haggai.

מְבַקְשִׁים (*me-vak-Shim*) root: בָּקַשׁ (*baw-kash*) Piel participle (note the absence of the dagesh in the second consonant): “to seek; to request”, “...are seeking”

וּמְלַאֲךֵי הַבְּרִית (*u-mal-Ach hab-be-Rit*) “the messenger of the covenant” This is a Messianic title.

חֲפֻצִים (*cha-fe-Tzim*) “delight; desire; having delight in”

**3:2** מְכַלְכֵל (*me-chal-Kel*) root: כּוּל (*kool*) Piel Prtcpl: “to endure; support; contain”

בְּהִרְאוֹתָיו (*be-he-ra-o-To*) root: רָאָה (*raw-aw*) Nifal infinitive (with suffix): “to show; to appear”, “his appearing”

מְצַרֵּף (*me-tza-Ref*) root: צָרַף (*tsaw-raf*) Piel: “to refine”

וּכְבֵּרִית (*u-che-vo-Rit*) “alkaline salt; soap; fullers’ soap”

**3:3** וּמְטַהֵר (*u-me-ta-Her*) root: טָהַר (*taw-Hare*) Piel: “to cleanse; purify”

וְזָקַק (*ve-zik-Kak*) root: זָקַק (*zaw-kak*) Piel: “to filter; purify”

**3:4** וְעֵרְבָה (*ve-a-re-Vah*) root: עָרַב (*aw-rabe*) Qal: “to be pleasing; sweet; to be well-pleasing”

קַדְמוֹנִית; (*kad-mo-ni-Yat*) “former; ancient; earlier”

**3:5** עֵד (*ed*) “witness”

מְמַהֵר (*me-ma-Her*) root: מָהַר (*maw-har*) Piel participle: “to make haste; to be swift; to hasten”

בְּמִכְשָׁפִים; (*bam-chash-she-Fim*) root: כָּשַׁף (*kaw-shaf*) Piel participle: “to practice sorcery”

וּבְמִנְאָפִים (*u-vam-na-a-Fim*) root: נָאָף (*naw-af*) Piel participle: “to commit adultery”

וּבְעֵשְׁקֵי (*u-ve-o-she-Kei*) root: עָשַׁק (*aw-shak*) Qal participle (in construct): “to oppress; exploit; extort”

שְׂכָר-שְׂכִיר (*se-cha-r-Sa - chir*) “the wages of hirelings” “the wages of laborers”

אַלְמָנָה; (*al-ma-Nah*) “widow”

וְיָתוֹם (*ve-ya-Tom*) “fatherless; orphan”

גר (*ger*) “stranger; sojourner”

**3:6** שְׁנִיתִי (*sha-Ni-ti*) root: שָׁנָה (*shaw-naw*) Qal: “to change”

כָּלֵי־תֵם (*che-li-Tem*) root: כָּלָה (*kaw-law*) “to be finished; consumed; destroyed”

Because of the unchanging, faithfulness of the LORD to His covenant, the children of Jacob are not destroyed/consumed even in their changing and unfaithfulness. The LORD cannot break His covenant—He cannot change that which He has promised. There may be detours/captivities/exiles/lost battles/times of distress, but the LORD cannot change and must fulfill His promises and send His Son. This is the great and beautiful Gospel message that Malachi shouts out. The Messenger is coming—must come—because the LORD God has promised, and He is unchanging and always faithful no matter how unfaithful His people may be.

**3:7** וְאֶשׁוּבָה אֵלַי וְאֶשׁוּבָה (Shu-vu e-Lai ve-a-Shu-vah) root: שׁוּב (*shoob*) “to turn; return” “return to me and I will return...”

It is unfortunate that the pericope ends here in the middle of verse 7. It would perhaps be better to continue on to at least verse 12. These last words, “return to me and I will return to you,” seem to contradict much of what has preceded. Indeed, the rest of the verse says, “How shall we return?” which is the right question. With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. It is the LORD God who does not change and remains faithful and through His Son returns the people to Himself. The Messenger of the Covenant will fulfill the promise and bring all nations to Him, and these people will call the people of Israel blessed for through them they are blessed—through the Coming One.

*Jeffrey Pulse, November 2021, 1517.org*