

+SERVICE OF VESPERS+

+ THIRD MIDWEEK IN ADVENT + 18 DECEMBER 2024 +



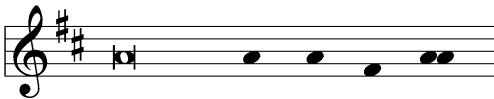
The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

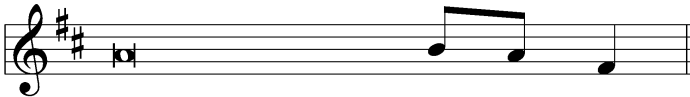
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tgslcms.org



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.

For the LORD
is our judge,
the LORD
is our lawgiver,
the LORD
is our king;
it is he who
will save us.
Isaiah 33:22



Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 85

Revive Us Again

¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

²**You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.**

³You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

⁴**Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation
toward us!**

⁵Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all
generations?

⁶**Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in
you?**

⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

⁸**Let me hear what God the LORD will
speak,**

**for he will speak peace to his
people, to his saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

¹²**Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.**

¹³Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.



Office Hymn

334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;
 3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.
 4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!
 And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new
 A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
 And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.
 That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.
 In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

- 5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
 Cannot His love erase;
 Your guilt the Lord will pardon
 And cover by His grace.
 He comes, for you procuring
 The peace of sin forgiv'n,
 His children thus securing
 Eternal life in heav'n.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations,
 A terror to His foes,
 A light of consolations
 And blessèd hope to those

Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering,
And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

Readings

Reading

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Israel's Joy and Restoration

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
he has cleared away your enemies.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall never again fear evil.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
“Fear not, O Zion;
let not your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst,
a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness;
he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.

¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,
so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal
with all your oppressors.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in,
at the time when I gather you together;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes," says the LORD.

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 righ-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.

The King Shall Come

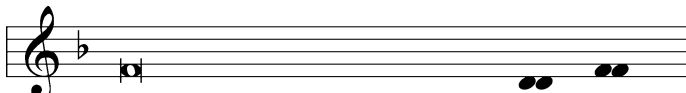
Solo: Jill Killian

Sermon: Zephaniah Prophecies

Pastor Edward Killian

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



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.

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.

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

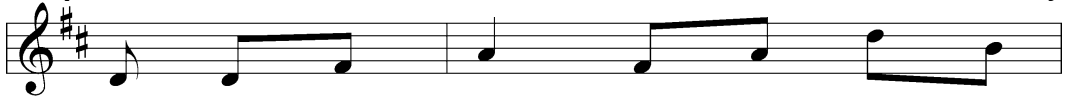


and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



Hymn to Depart

392 God Loves Me Dearly



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
 deem - er; He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. composite
 Tune: German
 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book
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Celebrate Christmas at the Good Shepherd!

Christmas Eve Organ Recital – Tuesday, December 24th at 3:30pm

Service of Lessons and Carols- Tuesday, December 24th at 4pm

Christmas Day Service – Wednesday, December 25th at 10am

A Snippet From 1517

Old Testament: Zephaniah 3:14-20 (Advent 3: Series C)

Waiting is not easy, but after waiting a long time, one would at least expect us to be ready when the time came.

The Old Testament lesson for this Sunday is from the Book of the Twelve, the prophetic work of Zephaniah. The text is [Zephaniah 3:14-20](#) which serves as the conclusion of Zephaniah's writing. While the details we have on this prophet are sketchy it seems he may have been a resident of Jerusalem as he provides intimate details of the city in his prophecies. In fact, Zephaniah may have been related to King Josiah who was reigning during his time of prophesying. Josiah was a good and faithful king and Zephaniah seems to be at work during the time of Josiah's reforms—a reformation if you will—proclaiming the “Day of the LORD” is near.

The first part of our pericope (verses 14-17) is a departure, at least in terms of the speaker, from what proceeds and what follows. The verses which come before our pericope are being spoken by/proclaimed by the LORD and the same is true for verses 18-20. Verses 14-17, however, are the words of Zephaniah himself. His message is one of rejoicing, exultation, and joy. The beginning language is quite similar to [Zechariah 9:9](#) which is also found in the gospel texts of [Matthew 21:4-9](#), [Mark 11:7-10](#), [Luke 19:35-38](#), and especially [John 12:15](#). These are all accounts of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This is obviously great cause for rejoicing and exultation.

Zephaniah tells us the cause of rejoicing is the removal of the enemy and its judgements (sin), because now the LORD is in your midst. As with Yom Kippur, the city must be cleansed for God to dwell with His people in their place. The difficulty is sinners cannot remove sin because they are sinners—a Catch-22! In the Old Testament the High Priest must make this sin removal a reality with the sacrificial goat and the sin-bearer goat. In truth, the High Priest is only standing in the place of Christ, the last and greatest High Priest (read Hebrews!). In the New Testament, the INCARNATION and the One who will fulfill the role of both goats is required for the sin of the people to be removed so the Holy One might dwell in their midst.

The last three verses (18-20) are delivered in the voice of the LORD God who speaks of the restoration of His people. The restoration of Israel itself is but a picture of the restoration of the whole world accomplished by the all-availing sacrifice of the Christ...

Jeffrey Pulse, December 2021, 1517.org

Reflections and Notes