



December 3, 2025

The First Wednesday in Advent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Invocation

Therefore as you go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-19

ProceSSIONAL Hymn *Please Stand*

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

♪ Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;

There He lay, the Undeiled, To the world a stranger. Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior? Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.

♪ Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;

Heaven’s star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him. Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing; All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.

♪ Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;

He is still the Undeiled But no more a stranger. Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story; Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 374—Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933; Text: Public domain

Opening Sentences

The Lord Himself will give you a sign.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

And this is the name by which it will be called: “The Lord is our righteousness.”

Jeremiah 33:16

Psalmody

Psalm 98:1–4, 8–9

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

The Lord has made known His salvation;

He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

Break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord,

For He comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

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.

Oh, sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O light beyond all praising, You bring hope into our darkness through the promised arrival of Mary's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Brighten our days and warm our nights, that our work, our worship, and our waiting might be preserved from sin and saturated in holy anticipation for Christ's return; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated* Jeremiah 33:14–18

¹⁴“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

¹⁷“For thus says the Lord: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Ephesians 1:3–10

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn “It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

- ♪ It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.
- ♪ Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds The blessèd angels sing.

♪ All you, beneath your heavy load, By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour, Come swiftly on the wing,
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the angels sing.

♪ For lo, the days have come to pass By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear The song the angels sing.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 366—Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt.; Text: Public domain

Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Luke 1:26–38

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

♪ Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again To give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.

♪ He leaves His heav'nly Father's throne, Is born an infant small,
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall, Lies in a humble stall.

♪ Within an earthborn form He hides His all-creating light;
To serve us all He humbly cloaks The splendor of His might, The splendor of His might.

♪ He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm, His glory, and His name, His glory, and His name.

♪ He is a servant, I a lord: How great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christ Child's love! No truer friend than He, No truer friend than He.

♪ He is the key and He the door To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise, To God our praises rise.

Please Stand

♪ Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore; We praise You evermore.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 389—Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; (sts. 1, 3–7): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 2): tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Text (sts. 1, 3–7): © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005255; Text (st. 2): Public domain

Proclamation of the Word

“We Wait For Jesus, With Jesus: Mary”

Luke 1:26–38

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord’s Prayer

Closing Sentences

He who is mighty has done great things for me.

Holy is His name.

To God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be all honor and glory in His holy church, forever and ever.

Amen. Christ died! Christ is risen! Christ shall come again!

Luke 1:49

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“My Soul Rejoices”

♪ 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!

♪ 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!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 933—Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955; Text: © 1991 Stephen P. Starke, admin.
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Postlude