



St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Serbin

Advent Celebration Service

December 9, 2020
7:00 p.m.

JESUS, THE ROOT OF JESSE'S TREE

Advent is a time to reflect on Jesus' coming at Christmas. It is a time to look with hope toward His coming again at the restoration of all creation. It is a time to recognize Jesus' coming to us now in His Word, Baptism, and Holy Communion. In a world that often feels ungrounded and rootless, we find during Advent deep and abiding hope in Jesus as the root of our life and faith. As the roots of a tree nourish it, keep it grounded, and cause it to grow, so Jesus, the root of Jesse's tree, nourishes us, grounds us, and causes us to grow in faith. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, we pause midweek to be grounded and rooted in Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN: ♪ "WHAT HOPE! AN EDEN PROPHESED"

LSB 342

**What hope! An Eden prophesied
Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side,
Led by a little child!**

**A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem,
A branch from David's line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:
The fruit of God's design.**

**As banner of God's love unfurled,
Christ came to suffer loss,
That by His death a dying world
Would rally to the cross.**

**Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,
Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword—
Come, open heaven's door.**

Copyright © 1998 Stephen P. Starke; admin. Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Stand

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- G** and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

- C** make haste to help me, O Lord.
- C** 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. Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

PSALM

PSALM 92

- C** The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
- P** It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
- C** to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night,
- P** to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.
- C** For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work; at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.
- P** How great are Your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!
- C** The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot understand this: that though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish, they are doomed to destruction forever;
- P** but You, O LORD, are on high forever.
- C** For behold, Your enemies, O LORD, or behold, Your enemies shall perish; all evildoers shall be scattered.
- P** But You have exalted my horn like that of the wild ox; You have poured over me fresh oil.
- C** My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the doom of my evil assailants.
- P** The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
- C** They are planted in the house of the LORD; they flourish in the courts of our God.
- P** They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green,
- C** to declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
- C** 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.

Sit

HYMN: ♪ "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"

LSB 379

- 1** O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him
Born the king of angels: *Refrain*

Refrain:

- O come, let us adore Him,
- O come, let us adore Him,
- O come, let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord!

**2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest: Refrain**

**4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father
Now in flesh appearing! Refrain**

Text: Public domain

FIRST READING

GENESIS 22:1–18

P A reading from Genesis, the twenty-second chapter.

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on

the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: ♪ "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

by Johnnie and Seth Kalbas

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 11:17-22

P A reading from Hebrews, the eleventh chapter.

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

SERMON: "JESUS, THE ROOT OF JESSE'S TREE"

BY PASTOR JOHN SCHMIDT

Stand

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

CATECHESIS

C **What do the Scriptures teach of the birth of Jesus?**

P They teach that Jesus Christ, the God-man, was born of the Virgin Mary.

C **Where is this in Scripture?**

P Isaiah 7:14, "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel," and Luke 2:7, "She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger."

- 1 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!**
- 2 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!**

Text: © 1991 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005097

KYRIE

- ☩ Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

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

- ☩** O Lord, hear my prayer.
☩ And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- ☩** 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.
☩ Amen.

ADDITIONAL COLLECTS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

COLLECT

P God of hope, You graciously provided a Savior for us, who is now the root of our faith and life. Root us and ground us in Jesus, so that our lives may not be swayed by every temptation that comes. In the midst of a constantly wavering world, let our lives be signs of Your abiding and steadfast love; 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.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ "COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS"

LSB 338

- 1** Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2** Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Text: Public domain

SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acknowledgments

Vespers from *Lutheran Service Book* © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. 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.