



Mid Week Advent 1 November 30, 2022 7:00pm

Angels: The Ultimate Divine Messengers of Hope

A Message of Hope in the Midst of Unbelieving Doubt

Prelude

As We Gather

The appearance of Gabriel was a clue that God was up to something never before seen in human history: He was sending His Son to redeem the world. Advent gives us time to ponder the mystery of God's plan of redemption—quiet, contemplative time like dumbstruck Zechariah had as he awaited the birth of John. As we await the celebration of Jesus' birth, we listen to the message of hope that God comes even now to save us.

Service of Light

Invocation

- A** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Sentences

- P** Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**
- P** By the Holy Spirit we cry out with the whole Church,
C **"Prepare the way of the Lord."**
- P** All who wait for Jesus to return pray,
C **Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath

We Light the Advent Candle

We light the Advent candle
And wait for Christ to come.
With hope, we trust the promise
That He will bring us home.
Our hope is in our Savior
Who wins for us God's favor.
We wait with growing light
Till God makes all things right!

Text: Lisa M Clark

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Thanksgiving for Light

- L** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Psalmody

Psalm 141

- P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
- C** **O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry to You.**
- P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
- C** **Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips.**
- P** Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.
- C** **But my eyes are turned to You, O God;
in You I take refuge.
Strip me not of my life.**
- P** 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.

Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

L Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord,
and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds,
we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole
heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C **Amen.**

Office Hymn "Hear Us, Father, When We Pray" LSB 773

**Hear us, Father, when we pray,
Through Your Son and in Your Spirit.
By Your Spirit's Word convey
All that we through Christ inherit,
That as baptized heirs we may
Truly pray.**

**When we know not what to say
And our wounded souls are pleading,
May Your Spirit, night and day,
Groan within us interceding;
By His sighs, too deep for words,
We are heard.**

**Jesus, advocate on high,
Sacrificed on Calv'ry's altar,
Through Your priestly blood we cry:
Hear our prayers, though they may falter;
Place them on Your Father's throne
As Your own.**

**By Your Spirit now attend
To our prayers and supplications,
As like incense they ascend
To Your heav'nly habitations.
May their fragrance waft above,
God of love.**

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970

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Readings

Reading

Isaiah 43:16–21

L A reading from Isaiah, chapter 43.

¹⁶Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷who brings forth chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸“Remember not the former things,
 nor consider the things of old.
¹⁹Behold, I am doing a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰The wild beasts will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness,

rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹the people whom I formed for myself
that they might declare my praise.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Luke 1:5–25

L A reading from Luke, chapter 1.

⁵In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." ¹⁹And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." ²¹And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²²And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵"Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

The Advent of Our King LSB 331

1 The advent of our King

Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

2 The everlasting Son

Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.

3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.

4 As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.



6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

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Sermon "A Message of Hope in the Midst of Unbelieving Doubt"

Canticle

Magnificat

**☐ My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.**

**For He has regarded
the lowliness of His handmaiden.
For behold, from this day
all generations will call me blessed.**

**For the Mighty One has done
great things to me, and holy is His name;
and His mercy is on those who fear Him
from generation to generation.**

**My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.**

**He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered the proud
in the imagination of their hearts.
He has cast down the mighty
from their thrones
and has exalted the lowly.**

**He has filled the hungry
with good things,
and the rich
He has sent empty away.
He has helped His servant Israel
in remembrance of His mercy
as He spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his seed forever.**

**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.**

**My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.**

Offertory: Quartet "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

Prayers

- P** As we wait for You, O Lord, we pray for peace among nations, peace across the factions in our nation, peace in our households, and peace that surpasses human understanding in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Guide us to hear the voice of God in His Word when we struggle to believe, as did Zechariah. Lift us up by the hope that comes only in Christ and overcome our doubts. Humble us before You, that we may gratefully receive whatever You provide. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Fill Your whole Church with anticipation for that day when Christ will return and guide us to springs of living water and wipe away every tear from our eyes. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Thank You, Lord, for the blessings of this day now almost past. Forgive both what we have neglected to do and what we have done wrong. Hold our loved ones close to Your heart. Bless the work that we do as we use the talents and gifts You entrust to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heal the sick. Bless the dying. Uphold caregivers. Fill those who mourn with abundant hope through Christ's death and resurrection. Let all who suffer experience Your compassionate presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Accompany those who travel and those who work through the night to serve our community. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord for the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ. And let us rejoice in the fellowship of all the saints, entrusting ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P O God, as You called Zechariah and Elizabeth, so You call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

L Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.**

Benedicamus

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

Hymn to Depart "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LSB 357 vs 1,2,3

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain**

**O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain**

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr.
John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

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Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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