

Advent Midweek 3- December 17, 2025 Traditional

All About Mary: And Mary Sang

As We Gather

During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the hope that the Savior who came for the world once is coming again. And we do not wait alone. Together, the whole Christian Church is accompanied in this waiting by the Christ who promises to be with His people always. Jesus' mother, the virgin Mary, knows a lot about waiting. With pregnant anticipation, Mary waited *for* Jesus, the promised Messiah who would reign from David's throne forever. But Mary was always waiting *with* Jesus, the Son of the Most High nestled within her womb. Throughout this Advent, we will listen with Mary, sing with Mary, and wait with Mary. Because, on darkest days, the Christ comes as near to you as He did to Mary to wait *with* you for the glorious sunrise that's coming.

Today we turn our attention to the words of Mary in her great "*Magnificat*." Through this song, we hear the message of Jesus Christ, who has come to rescue us from our sin.

#349 "Hark the Glad Sound"

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To_enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51
Text: Public domain

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Prayer

P Let us pray.

O light of the nations, Your spectacular reign is the hope of all peoples. Grant us humble hearts to anticipate the second advent and preserve us for Your kingdom, that we might declare the praises of Jesus, our coming King, to the ends of the earth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1–4, 10–11

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–56

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,
⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

#350 “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,

Only hope for sinful mortals!

Come, O Savior of the world!

Open are to Thee all portals.

Come, Thy beauty let us see;

Anxiously we wait for Thee.

- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!
- 3 My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.
- 4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Rev. Bernhard Huesmann

Offering

Prayer

P Son of David and Son of God, You rightfully rule over all things. Our days and deeds belong to You, and we turn to You for guidance, joyfully surrendering our burdens and submitting to Your gracious will. Just as John celebrated at the sound of Your presence, we, too, rejoice that our Immanuel is with us to hear our prayers and answer us in mercy.

O promised Son of Adam, from the beginning, You have held humanity in the hope of evil's ultimate defeat. We pray for all trapped in darkness and in need of rescue. Free hearts held captive by addiction, anxiety, depression, dementia, and mental illness and liberate victims of slavery, human trafficking, ethnic warfare, and global injustice, that the humbled might be exalted by Your mighty hand. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Promised Son of Abraham, You remember Your mercy for generations. Make our households places where faith flourishes and where grandparents, parents, children, and neighbors together witness to Your faithfulness. Inspire those preparing for Baptism,

confirmation, or ministry for lifelong service in Your name, that generations yet unborn will proclaim Your righteousness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Promised Son of Israel, You led the people of Your keeping through the wilderness and to the Promised Land. Safeguard all who travel during this season. Keep them alert to possible dangers and protect them from distraction. Fill their journeys with joy, then bring them home in safety, until You bring us all to the eternal promised land, prepared by Your death and resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

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.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

#506 "Glory Be to God the Father"

- 1 Glory be to God the Father,
Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit:
Great Jehovah, Three in One!
Glory, glory
While eternal ages run!
- 2 Glory be to Him who loved us,
Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to Him who bought us,

Made us kings with Him to reign!
Glory, glory
To the Lamb that once was slain!

3 Glory to the King of angels,
 Glory to the Church's King,
Glory to the King of nations;
 Heav'n and earth, your praises bring!
 Glory, glory
 To the King of glory sing!

4 Glory, blessing, praise eternal!
 Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow'r, dominion!
 Thus its praise creation brings.
 Glory, glory,
 Glory to the King of kings!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89
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