

# Advent Midweek- December 3, 2025

## All About Mary: Introducing Mary

### As We Gather

During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the assurance 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 - while Jesus grew inside of her - 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.

### 331 The Advent of Our King

- 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.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## First Reading

*Jeremiah 33:14–18*

<sup>14</sup>“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. <sup>15</sup>In 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. <sup>16</sup>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.’

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

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 1:26–38*

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

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>And 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. <sup>36</sup>And 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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And 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.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Children's Message

### 374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undefined,  
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.
- 2 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.
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undefined  
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!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933  
Text: Public domain

## Homily

## Offering

## Handbells

*Zion Students*

## Prayers of the Church

- P** Son of Mary and Son of God, we trust that in Your humanity, You know the burdens we bear, and in Your divinity, You hear and answer our prayers. So we kneel before You, just as Your mother knelt beside Your manger, to praise You for Your grace and to look to You for light.

O holy Child of Mary, we pray for all mothers, that they might know the honor of being called by You to lead and serve their children. Bless all who became mothers unexpectedly; protect them from discouragement and supply them with peace and patience. Send safety particularly to mothers in the middle of pregnancy; grant them equal measures of joyful anticipation and good health. Son of Mary,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** O holy Child of Bethlehem, we pray for the hearts of Your people during this season of distraction. Give Your faithful an unwavering joy for this season and an eagerness to greet You when You come again. Make all believers lights in a dark world, that they might shine like stars with purity and hope, and in so doing, win others for Your kingdom through the power of Your Gospel. Son of David,

- C** hear our prayer.

- P** Only-begotten Son of the Father, You came as a light for all nations. Restrain evil leaders, bring an end to violence and discord, and kindle in all people a pursuit of peace and righteousness. Make us believers the first to help rather than hurt, meeting the needs of our neighbors as we have been equipped to do, so that all people might come to Your light and praise the brightness of Your rising. Son of God,

- 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.**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 198*

- C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

## **Distribution Hymns**

### **#627 “Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior”**

- 1 Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior,  
Turned away God’s wrath forever;  
By His bitter grief and woe  
He saved us from the evil foe.
- 2 As His pledge of love undying,  
He, this precious food supplying,  
Gives His body with the bread,  
And with the wine the blood He shed.
- 3 Jesus here Himself is sharing;  
Heed then how you are preparing,  
For if you do not believe,  
His judgment then you shall receive.
- 4 Praise the Father, who from heaven  
To His own this food has given,  
Who, to mend what we have done,  
Gave into death His only Son.

- 5 Firmly hold with faith unshaken  
That this food is to be taken  
By the sick who are distressed,  
By hearts that long for peace and rest.
- 6 Agony and bitter labor  
Were the cost of God's high favor;  
Do not come if you suppose  
You need not Him who died and rose.
- 7 Christ says: "Come, all you that labor,  
And receive My grace and favor:  
Those who feel no pain or ill  
Need no physician's help or skill.
- 8 "For what purpose was My dying  
If not for your justifying?  
And what use this precious food  
If you yourself were pure and good?"
- 9 If your heart this truth professes  
And your mouth your sin confesses,  
You will be your Savior's guest,  
Be at His banquet truly blest.
- 10 Let this food your faith so nourish  
That its fruit of love may flourish  
And your neighbor learn from you  
How much God's wondrous love can do.

Text: John Hus, c. 1369–1415; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2, 4–5, 7, 9): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (sts. 3, 8): tr.

Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 6, 10): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt.

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## Handbells (during 7pm service)

*Zion Students*

## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

**P** Let us pray.  
Accept, O almighty Lord, our praise for Your blessed Son, Jesus Christ, who came in the flesh to seek and to save us in our lost condition. Grant that at His second and glorious appearing He may find in us the fruits of the redemption that He has graciously accomplished for us; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** 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.

## #338 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

- 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: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
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