

ADVENT MIDWEEK 1

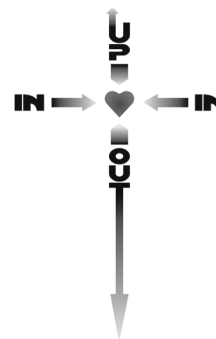
All About Mary: Introducing Mary

December 3, 2025



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

A church of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
1406 W. Cherry Lane
Meridian ID 83642
(208) 888-1622



Rev. Daniel G. Jones, **Pastor**
Email: office@clcmeridian.org
Web address: clcmeridian.org

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 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 shall remember Mary as God reveals who she is through His Word, not how the world and many churches describe her. And in considering Mary, we look to the One who is the reason the Bible teaches us about Mary—Jesus Christ, her Son and our Lord.

WELCOME

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 7:14; Jeremiah 33:16*

Pastor: The Lord Himself will give you a sign.

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

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

People: And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

During the hymn, the Advent candle may be lit.

HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (LSB) 338

PSALM *Psalm 98:1–4, 8–9; antiphon: v. 1*

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

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

Pastor: The LORD has made known His salvation;

People: **He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

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

People: **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

People: **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

Pastor: Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD,

People: **for He comes to judge the earth.**

Pastor: He will judge the world with righteousness,

People: **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.**

Pastor: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF GOD'S WORD +

FIRST READING *Jeremiah 33:14–18* (As a hope to His people, the Lord reiterates His promise to give them an eternal Priest and King.)

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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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.’ ¹⁷ “For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸ 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.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING *Luke 1:26–38* (Without warning, the Lord's messenger alerts a young maiden that she is part of God's plan of salvation.)

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed^[a] to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”^[b] ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² 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, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”^[c]³⁵ 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^[d] will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant^[e] of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE HYMN “ The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” (LSB) 356

MESSAGE

OFFERING “ What Hope! An Eden Prophesied” (LSB) 342 vs. 1

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

PRAYERS

Pastor: 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,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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,

People: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: 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.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

People: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ,
Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day;
and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I
have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For
into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul,
and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil
foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING SENTENCES *Luke 1:49, alt.*

Pastor: He who is mighty has done great things for me.

People: Holy is His name.

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

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

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (LSB) 374

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.

Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Join us for Advent season

**Wednesday Evening Advent
Supper & Service**

December 10, and 17

Supper at 6pm Service at 7 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday December 24th 8 pm



FOR THOSE WHO ARE COMMUNING...In keeping with Scripture, visitors who are active members of LCMS congregations (or from church bodies in fellowship with the LCMS) are asked to speak with the pastor or elder prior to the Sacrament. Because those who eat and drink the Lord's **Body and Blood** unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:29) and because Holy Communion is a confession of faith that is confessed at this altar, all other visitors are asked to make an appointment with the pastor to discuss the Lord's Supper prior to receiving the Sacrament.

Members and visitors alike, who have been instructed in the Christian faith, are encouraged to use the following questions:

Do I believe that in the Lord's Supper I receive Jesus' true **Body and Blood** with the bread and wine?

Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior, who paid for all of my sins on the cross and thereby saves me from eternal punishment?

Do I believe that I am a sinful being without hope of eternal life, except for God's mercy in Christ?

Do I repent of all sin, and set aside any grudges or refusal to forgive and love as God forgives and loves us?

Do I intend, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to turn away from my sins and strive to live a Godly life?

This is not a judgment of an individual's faith but a matter of proper preparation and pastoral care of souls. (1 Corinthians 11:26-30) Thank you for your deference to the Biblical doctrine of this congregation.

*Note: The red wine in the Communion tray is Non-alcohol and is available for those with medical limitations. **GLUTEN FREE WAFERS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST***

