

ADVENT MIDWEEK 3

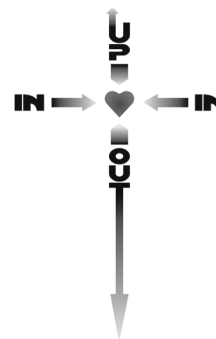
All About Mary: And Mary Sang

December 17, 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 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 shall turn our attention to the words of Mary in her great Magnificat, sung by the church for two millennia. Through this song, we hear the message of Jesus Christ, who has come to rescue us from our sin.

WELCOME

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."**

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

During the hymn, the Advent candles may be lit.

HYMN "The Advent of Our King" (LSB) 331

PSALM *Psalm 85:1–4, 9–11; antiphon: v. 7*

Pastor: Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

People: and grant us Your salvation.

Pastor: LORD, You were favorable to Your land;

People: You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

Pastor: You forgave the iniquity of Your people;

People: You covered all their sin.

Pastor: You withdrew all Your wrath;

People: You turned from Your hot anger.

Pastor: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

People: and put away Your indignation toward us!

Pastor: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

People: that glory may dwell in our land.

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

People: righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Pastor: Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

People: and righteousness looks down from the sky.

**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: Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,

People: and grant us Your salvation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
Almighty God, You chose the virgin Mary to be the mother of Your Son and made known through her Your gracious regard for the poor and lowly and despised. Grant that we may receive Your Word in humility and faith, and so be made one with Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 *Isaiah 61:1–4, 10–11* (The prophet declares the glorious reversal of human fortunes upon the Messiah's advent.)

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;^[a]
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;^[b]
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to 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.^[c]
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
¹⁰ I 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.

¹¹ For 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.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Luke 1:39–56* (An eruption of joy as John meets Jesus,
and Mary bursts into praise)

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

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

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

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

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

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

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

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

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

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" (LSB) 341

MESSAGE

OFFERING "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied" (LSB) 342 vs. 3

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

PRAYERS

Pastor: 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. So 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. Son of deliverance,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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. Son of remembrance,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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. Son of our salvation,

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 “What Child is This” (LSB) 370

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

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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***

