

THE SECOND MIDWEEK SERVICE OF ADVENT

December 9, 2020

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRELUDE "He Shall Feed His Flock" arr. L. Leatherman

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied" **LSB 342**



1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da - vid's line,
3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

INVOCATION

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

C Amen

OPENING SENTENCES *Isaiah 11:1; Genesis 22:17b–18; Hebrews 11:17a*

P There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

C and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

P And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,

C and in your offspring

P shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,

C because you have obeyed My voice.

- P** By faith Abraham, when he was tested,
C offered up Isaac.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

- P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:
C Come, Lord Jesus.

- P** All those who await His appearance pray:
C Come, Lord Jesus.

- P** The whole creation pleads:
C Come, Lord Jesus.

- P** Awaiting the shoot from the stump of Jesse, we implore:
C Come, Lord Jesus.

HYMN

"O Light Whose Splendor"

LSB 891

1 O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens
 2 As twilight hovers near at sunset,
 3 In all life's brilliant timeless moments,
 With radiance brighter than the sun,
 And lamps are lit, and children nod,
 Let faithful voices sing Your praise,
 Pure gleam of God's unending glory,
 In evening hymns we lift our voices,
 O Son of God, our Life bestower,
 O Jesus, blest Anointed One;
 To Father, Spirit, Son: one God,
 Whose glory lights the endless days.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who provided Abraham with offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as many as the sand that is on the seashore, that in his offspring all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and 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.

✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

PSALM 141

LSB p. 245



C Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



II Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



I Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;



let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.

II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref-uge.
 Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in
 the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.
 Let my prayer rise be-fore You as in-cense,
 the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

Sit

FIRST READING

Hebrews 11:17–22

P A reading from Hebrews, the eleventh chapter.

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ¹⁹He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²²By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Genesis 22:1–18

P A reading from Genesis, the twenty-second chapter.

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him,
"Abraham!" And he said,

C **"Here am I."**

P He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men,

C **"Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you."**

P And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said,

C **"Here am I, my son."**

P He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said,

C **"God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."**

P So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said,

C **"Here am I."**

P He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not

withheld your son, your only son, from Me.” And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place,

C “The Lord will provide”

P as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.” And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P 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.

HYMN

“My Soul Rejoices”

LSB 933

1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the
 great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He
 fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion
 bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
 halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the

ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the
sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring
Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Stand

LITANY

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For district presidents, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For President Trump, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C Alleluia.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C To You, O Lord.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

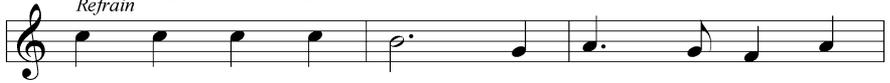
LORD'S PRAYER. *As printed on the forward screens*

HYMN**"The Lamb"****LSB 547**

1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
 3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
 4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
 5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
 The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
 So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
 He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
 His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain

Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

SERMON*Stand***PRAYER**

P Lord God, You have called Your servants 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.**BLESSING**

P There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

C and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

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

C Amen.

HYMN**"Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"****LSB 347**

1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

POSTLUDE**"Lift Up Your Heads"**

arr. L. Smith

PARTICIPATING IN THIS SERVICE*Pastor: Rev. Richard Willsea**Deaconess: Karen Suter**Organist: Patty Barnes***Acknowledgments**

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