



*Mid Week Advent Series*

**The Song of Zechariah**

December 4, 2024

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### PRELUDE

"O Bride of Christ Rejoice"  
"Prepare the Royal Highway"

setting: S. Weber  
setting: R. Farlee

### WELCOME

*Stand*

### INVOCATION

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

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 124:8*

- P** Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
**G** **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** In this season of penitence and reflection, let us think of our unworthiness; confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed; and ask for His merciful forgiveness.
- G** **Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- G** **Amen.**

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

### HYMN

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

**LSB 343**



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Refrain*  
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt., Tune: Swedish, 17th cent., Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.  
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## OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 146:1–2, 5–6, 7b–8, 10*

- P** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
- C** **I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
- P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,
- C** **who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever.**
- P** The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
- C** **The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

## SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty Father, by the advent of Your Son into the world, the kingdom of heaven now is open to all who believe in Him. Give us grace to receive the Lord Jesus as our Emmanuel, God with us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, inspire our praises in this season of blessed expectation. Lead us joyfully to serve Jesus, our Advent King, in our daily lives, so that when He comes again on the Last Day in power and majesty we may, by Your mercy, be gathered into Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and our King.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Exodus 15:1-3*

**A** Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM, **I** *Font Side*, **II** *Pulpit Side*

*Psalms 24*

**P** The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

**C** **for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.**

**I** *Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place?*

**II** *He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.*

**C** **He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

**P** Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**C** **Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

**P** Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**C** **Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory! 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.**

## THE EPISTLE READING

*Ephesians 5:15–21*

**A** Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 1:67–80*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without

fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

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

**C** Praise to You, O Christ

*Sit*

**HYMN**

“Sing Praise to the God of Israel”

**LSB 963**



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His  
 2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on  
 3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His  
 4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,  
 oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:  
 way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,  
 lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - pish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a  
 Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -  
 His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and  
 And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!  
 liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.  
 grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.  
 foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

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## SERMON

## OFFERING

## VOLUNTARY

"Advent Noel"

arr. M. Ryan

*Stand*

## OFFERTORY

LSB 159



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

## THE LITANY

- P** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.
- P** O Christ,  
**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,  
**C** **have mercy.**

**P** O Christ,  
**C** **hear us.**

**P** God the Father in heaven,  
**C** **have mercy.**

**P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**C** **have mercy.**

**P** God the Holy Spirit,  
**C** **have mercy.**

**P** Be gracious to us.  
**C** **Spare us, good Lord.**

**P** Be gracious to us.  
**C** **Help us, good Lord.**

**P** From all sin, from all error, from all evil; From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death; From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion; From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:  
**C** **Good Lord, deliver us.**

**P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; By Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:  
**C** **Help us, good Lord.**

**P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:  
**C** **Help us, good Lord.**

**P** We poor sinners implore You  
**C** **to hear us, O Lord.**



**P** To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;  
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;  
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

**G We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

**G We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;  
To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;  
To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;  
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;  
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

**G We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**G We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**G we implore You to hear us.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**G have mercy.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** have mercy.

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** grant us Your peace.

**P** O Christ,

**C** hear us.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,

**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,

**C** have mercy. Amen.

## 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.

## CLOSING COLLECT

**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 almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless and preserve you.

**C** Amen.

HYMN

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

LSB 340



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the King of  
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot is hu -  
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the rul - er  
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a tem - ple  
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to Thee; here,



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; The  
 mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, His  
 is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes To  
 set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, A -  
 Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine; Thy



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion  
 scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our  
 whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of  
 dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - reign  
 face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To  
 woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings. To  
 joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free. To  
 en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin. To  
 guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
 Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
 God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
 God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!  
 ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt., Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

setting: J. Bender

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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