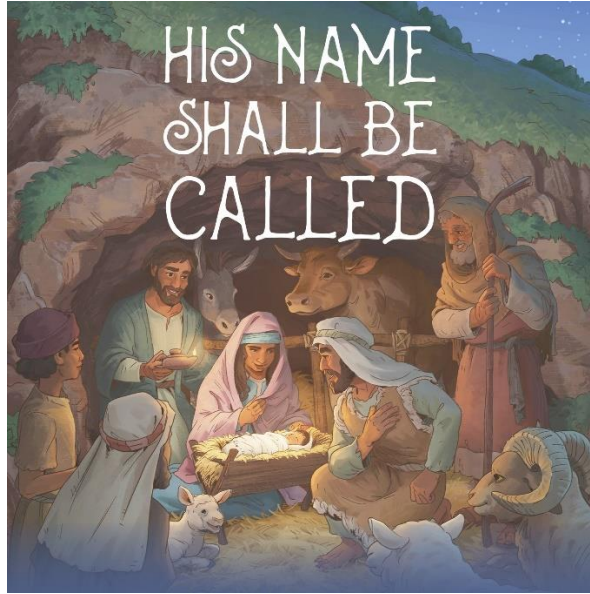


FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



Advent Vespers

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

12:00 & 7:00 p.m.

EVERLASTING FATHER

During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God’s Son, who was given the name *Jesus*—a Hebrew name that means “God saves.” However, in addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles that describe something about His person or work. We will examine the four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—and will study how each of these titles describes something about *who* Jesus is and *what* He did for our salvation.

Today we consider why Jesus is called “Father” even though He is the eternal Son of the Father. Our Everlasting Father rules over creation and His people like a loving father and His kingdom is eternal. What great love He has for us, and what comfort this gives us, especially as we face trials and suffering in this world.

Rev. Eric J. Edwards † Rev. Christopher Beck † Rev. Liwei Sui

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HYMN – LSB 357 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 1 & 6)



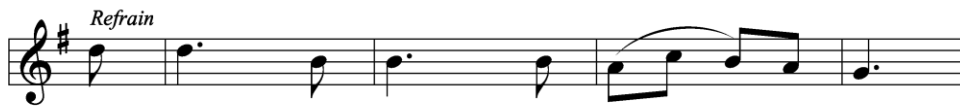
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public domain

OPENING VERSICLES

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

- L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

- C** 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.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

✠ ✠ ✠ PSALMODY ✠ ✠ ✠

PSALM – Psalm 2; antiphon: v. 7

The congregation sings all.

I will tell of | the decree:*

The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son;
today I have be- | gotten You.



Why do the | nations rage*

and the peoples | plot in vain?

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,*
against the LORD and against His anointed, | saying,

“Let us burst Their | bonds apart*

and cast away Their | cords from us.”

He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*

the Lord holds them in de- | rision.

Then He will speak to them | in His wrath,*

and terrify them in His fury, | saying,

“As for Me, I have | set My King*

on Zion, My | holy hill.”

I will tell of | the decree:*

The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son;
today I have be- | gotten You.

Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your | heritage,*
and the ends of the earth Your pos- | session.

You shall break them with a | rod of iron*

and dash them in pieces like a potter’s | vessel.”

Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;*

be warned, O rulers | of the earth.

Serve the | LORD with fear,*

and rejoice with | trembling.

Kiss the Son,

lest He be angry, and you perish in the way,
for His wrath is quickly | kindled.*

Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in Him.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will tell of | the decree:*

**The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son;
today I have be- | gotten You.**

SERIES HYMN – LSB 412 – The People That in Darkness Sat



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;
On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.

△ 6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.

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✠ ✠ ✠ READINGS ✠ ✠ ✠

FIRST READING – *Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7*

P A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,
and His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of His government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING – *Colossians 1:15-20*

P A reading from Colossians, the first chapter.

¹⁵[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything

He might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING – *John 14:1-11*

P A reading from John, the fourteenth chapter.

¹[Jesus said:] “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. ²In My Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.”

⁸Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know Me, Philip? Whoever has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own authority, but the Father who dwells in Me does His works. ¹¹Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

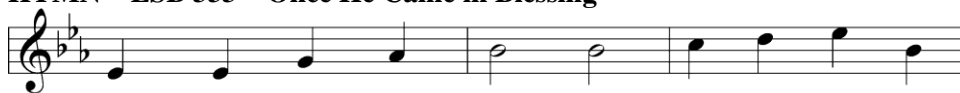
L In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

HYMN – LSB 333 – Once He Came in Blessing



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
 3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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7 pm – CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON – *Everlasting Father*

✠ ✠ ✠ CANTICLE ✠ ✠ ✠

ANTIPHON

- L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

MAGNIFICAT – LSB 934



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

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OFFERING



✠ ✠ ✠ PRAYER ✠ ✠ ✠

KYRIE



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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.

COLLECTS

L O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

(after each collect)

L ... one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

L The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

HYMN – LSB 352 – The Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - ya year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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SILENT PRAYER/ANNOUNCEMENTS



Acknowledgments

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Advent & Christmas 2024

Wednesdays – December 4, 11, 18
Midweek Advent Fellowship & Worship:
12 Noon **Worship** · 12:30pm Meal
5:45pm Meal · 6:45pm Carols · 7pm* **Worship**

Wednesday, December 11 – 11:45am
Preschool Christmas Program *Preview*

Thursday, December 12 – 11:30am
Preschool Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15 – 10:30am*
Living Nativity

Christmas Eve – 5pm* & 7pm
Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day – 10am*
Worship with Holy Communion

New Year's Eve – 5pm*
Worship with Holy Communion

* Service will also be **livestreamed** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) (FaithBtownLCMS)
Follow the bulletin available on our [website](#).