

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3

ABSALOM
DECEMBER 14, 2022

AS WE GATHER

Who is the son of David? Just like Adam and Eve and Abram and Sarai, so also David received a promise from God. The Lord's promise for King David was that his house and kingdom would be established forever. But this promise seems to be in jeopardy when David's son Absalom rebels against his own father. In the end, however, this disobedient prince dies, hanging from a tree. Yes, God would indeed establish David's reign, but it would be through Jesus, the greater Son, who is obedient to the will of His Father in heaven. This Prince of Peace dies by hanging nailed to the tree of the cross so we can be restored as sons and daughters of the King of kings.

HYMN SING

10:00 *Kindergarten*

*“Ring the Bells”
“Away in a Manger”
“Let's Take a Peek in the Manger”*

HYMN “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” (LSB350)

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!

Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.

Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my quest divine!

My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

6:00 POEM *“Clap, Clap, Clap”* 3K & 4K

6:00 SONG *“Ring the Bells”* 3K, 4K & K

INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

P Put not your trust in princes,

C **in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.**

P When his breath departs

C **he returns to the earth;**

P on that very day

C **his plans perish.**

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

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 Son of Man and the Son of God, we implore:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

As the hymn is sung, the candles of the Advent wreath are lighted.

HYMN OF LIGHT “O God of God, O Light of Light” (LSB 810)

O God of God, O Light of Light,
O Prince of Peace and King of kings:
To You in heav-en's glory bright
The song of praise forever rings.
To Him who sits upon the throne,
The Lamb once slain but raised again,
Be all the glory He has won,
All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.

For deep in prophets' sacred page,
And grand in poets' winged word,
Slowly in type, from age to age
The nations saw their coming Lord;
Till through the deep Judean night
Rang out the son, "Good-will to men!"
Sung once by first-born sons of light,
It echoes now, "Good-will!" Amen.

That life of truth, those deeds of love,
That death so steeped in hate and scorn-
These all are past, and now above He reigns,
our King once crowned with thorn.
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates!
So sang that host beyond our ken.
Lift up your heads, your King awaits.
We lift them up. Amen, amen.

Then raise to Christ a mighty song,
And shout His name, His mercies tell!
Sing, heav'n-ly host, your praise prolong,
And all on earth, your anthem swell!
All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain!
Forever let the song ascend!
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign,
All glory, pow'r! Amen, amen.

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 allowed your only begotten Son to die on the tree of the cross that we might be redeemed and adopted sons and daughters of the King of kings. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a 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.**

PSALM 141

All **Let my prayer rise before you as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

P O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly; hear my voice when I cry to you.

C **Let my prayer rise before you as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

P Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

C **Let not my heart incline to any evil thing; let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.**

P But my eyes are turned to you, O God; in you I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.

All **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.**

Let my prayer rise before you as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

FIRST READING *2 Samuel 18:24-33*

P A reading from Second Samuel, the eighteenth chapter.

²⁴Now David was sitting between the two gates, and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he lifted up his eyes and looked, he saw a man running alone. ²⁵The watchman called out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there is news in his mouth." And he drew nearer and nearer. ²⁶The watchman saw another man running. And the watchman called to the gate and said, "See, another man running alone!" The king said, "He also brings news." ²⁷The watchman said, "I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok." And the king said, "He is a good man and comes with good news."

²⁸Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king, "All is well." And he bowed before the king with his face to the earth and said, "Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king."

²⁹And the king said, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” Ahimaaz answered, “When Joab sent the king’s servant, your servant, I saw a great commotion, but I do not know what it was.” ³⁰And the king said, “Turn aside and stand here.” So he turned aside and stood still.

³¹And behold, the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, “Good news for my lord the king! For the LORD has delivered you this day from the hand of all who rose up against you.” ³²The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” And the Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you for evil be like that young man.”

³³And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING *Ephesians 5:1–10*

P A reading from Ephesians, the fifth chapter.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

6:00 SONG

“Away in a Manger”

4K & K

THIRD READING *Matthew 22:41–46*

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

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, ⁴²saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?” They said to Him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls Him Lord, saying, ⁴⁴“The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, until I put Your enemies under Your feet”? ⁴⁵If then David calls Him Lord, how is He his son?” ⁴⁶And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask Him any more questions.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

READINGS RESPONSE

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” (LSB933)

My soul rejoices, My spirit voices
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior Has shown me favor
Sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessings, Join in confessing
God, who is solely Mighty and holy
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His mercy surely Shall rest securely
On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

His arm now baring, His strength declaring
 Sing the greatness of the Lord!
 The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters
 Sing the greatness of the Lord!
 Oppression halted; The meek exalted.
 Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy
 O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
 Here is the token All that was spoken
 To Abr'ham's offspring God is fulfilling
 O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

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 Presidents Wille and Harrison, 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 our president, our governor, our mayor, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, for first responders, for medical personnel, and for our military, 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 those who are troubled in heart, for those struggling in relationships, for those under great stress, that God would calm their spirits, give them His peace, and lead and guide them in life, let us pray to the Lord:
C Lord, have mercy.
 P For our coming celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, that we would not let the world distract us from the greatest treasure of Christmas, and that we may keep Christmas and Christ's birth in our hearts, 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 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

HYMN "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (LSB549)

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.

Crown Him, ye martyrs of our God, Who from His altar call;
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod And crown Him Lord of all.
Extol the stem of Jesse's rod And crown Him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel's chosen race, Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all.

Hail Him, ye heirs of David's line, Whom David Lord did call,
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.
The God incarnate, man divine, And crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall,
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball.
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.

SERMON "This is My Son: Absalom"

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

PRAYER

P During this season of Advent, we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus."
True Son of Adam,

C come, Lord Jesus.

P True Son of Abraham,

C come, Lord Jesus.

P True Son of David,

C come, Lord Jesus.

P True Son of God,

C come, Lord Jesus.

P True Son of Man,

C come, Lord Jesus.

P That we might receive adoption as sons,

C come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C whose hope is in the LORD his God.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and
the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

6:00 SONG "Let's Take a Peek in the Manger" K

HYMN "O Jesus, King Most Wonderful" (LSB554)

O Jesus, King most wonderful! O Conqueror renowned!
O Source of peace ineffable, In whom all joys are found:

When once You visit darkened hearts, Then truth begins to shine,
Then earthly vanity departs, Then kindles love divine.

O Jesus, light of all below, The fount of life and fire,
Surpassing all the joys we know, All that we can desire:

May ev'ry heart confess Your name, Forever You adore,
And, seeking You, itself inflame To seek You more and more!

Oh, may our tongues forever bless, May we love You alone
And ever in our lives express The image of Your own!

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Organist	JoLynn Bender
Special Music	3K, 4K and Kindergarten children
Teachers	Barb Heimsoth & Brooke Lunak

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas Eve December 24
at 3:00, 5:00 & 11:00pm

Christmas Day December 25
at 9:00am

"Hark! The Herald Angels
Sing, "Glory to the newborn
King"