

Midweek of Advent 1
December 3, 2025

All About Mary: Introducing Mary

As We Gather - During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the assurance 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 remember Mary as God reveals who she is through His Word, not how the world and many churches describe her. And in considering Mary, we look to the One who is the reason the Bible teaches us about Mary—Jesus Christ, her Son and our Lord.

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 7:14; Jeremiah 33:16

P The Lord Himself will give you a sign.

C **Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.**

P In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

C **And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."**

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

During the hymn, the Advent candle may be lit.

PREPARATION

Hymn of Invocation: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven
Text and tune: Public domain

Psalm

Psalm 98:1–4, 8–9; antiphon: v. 1

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

C His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

P The LORD has made known His salvation;

C He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

P Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
C **break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

P Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD,
C **for He comes to judge the earth.**

P He will judge the world with righteousness,
C **and the peoples with equity.**

**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.**

P Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
C **His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
O light beyond all praising, You bring hope into our darkness through the promised arrival of Mary's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Brighten our days and warm our nights, that our work, our worship, and our waiting might be preserved from sin and saturated in holy anticipation for Christ's return; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

First Reading

Jeremiah 33:14–18

¹⁴"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

¹⁷"For thus says the LORD: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, ¹⁸and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever."

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Luke 1:26–38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

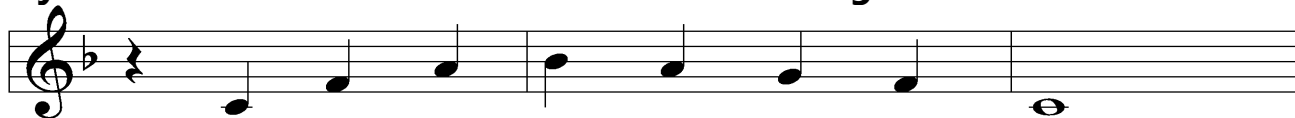
³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

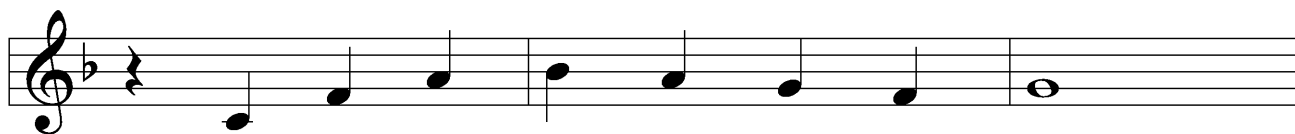
L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Behold How God Takes Nothingness



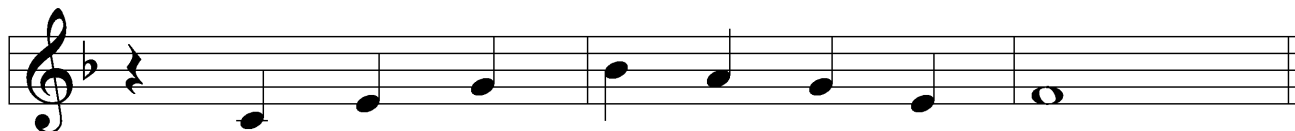
1 Be - hold how God takes noth - ing - ness
2 Oh, we of lit - tle faith be - hold
3 With her our soul does mag - ni - fy
4 How blest the womb where - in He lay,



And makes our great ma - te - rial world,
The faith of her, who, lis - tening, knew
The Lord who laughs at pu - ny kings,
The breast she gave Him when He cried.



And sends His Son the world to bless,
The Word that ho - ly Ga - briel told:
Who laughs at reb - els— let them try!—
He cried, “My God!” up - on that day,



Through just an or - di - nar - y girl.
“The Prom - ised One will come from you.”
Who fills the hun - gry with good things.
And burst the tomb at Eas - ter - tide.

5 A sword would pierce poor Mary's heart,
With tears she watched Him as He died—
Tears, water, blood—grace to impart—
A Roman spear in Jesus' side.

6 As Mary made for Him a home,
With John He made a home for her.
Risen, ascended, He will come,
To bring us home as sons and heirs.

7 We bow before the mystery
That Mary pondered in her breast—
The hidden Word made flesh we see,
Now God in man made manifest.

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Sermon

“Introducing Mary” Luke 1:26

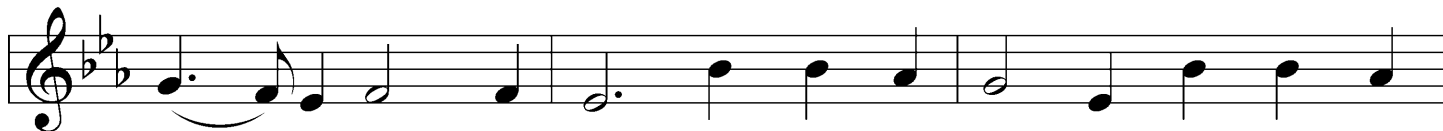
Hymn:

My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933



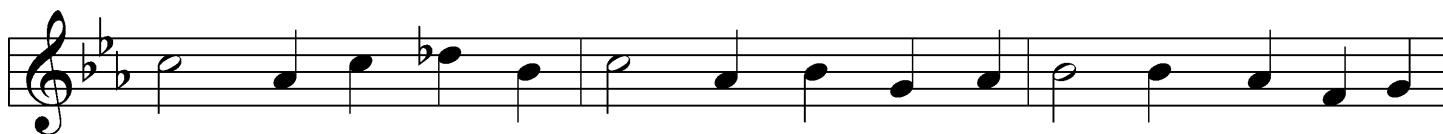
1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



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!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955 Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622

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Tune: Public domain

Hymn:**Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates***LSB 341 st. 5*

5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to
Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -
vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly
Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.
E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: August Lemke, 1820–1913 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayers

P Son of Mary and Son of God, we trust that in Your humanity, You know the burdens we bear, and in Your divinity, You hear and answer our prayers. So we kneel before You, just as Your mother knelt beside Your manger, to praise You for Your grace and to look to You for light.

O holy Child of Mary, we pray for all mothers, that they might know the honor of being called by You to lead and serve their children. Bless all who became mothers unexpectedly; protect them from discouragement and supply them with peace and patience. Send safety particularly to mothers in the middle of pregnancy; grant them equal measures of joyful anticipation and good health. Son of Mary,

C hear our prayer.

P O holy Child of Bethlehem, we pray for the hearts of Your people during this season of distraction. Give Your faithful an unwavering joy for this season and an eagerness to greet You when You come again. Make all believers lights in a dark world, that they might shine like stars with purity and hope, and in so doing, win others for Your kingdom through the power of Your Gospel. Son of David,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Only-begotten Son of the Father, You came as a light for all nations. Restrain evil leaders, bring an end to violence and discord, and kindle in all people a pursuit of peace and righteousness. Make us believers the first to help rather than hurt, meeting the needs of our neighbors as we have been equipped to do, so that all people might come to Your light and praise the brightness of Your rising. Son of God,

C **hear our 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.**

Evening Prayer

C **We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have this day so graciously protected us. We beg you to forgive us all our sins and the wrong which we have done. By your great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen.**

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Sentences

Luke 1:49, alt.

P He who is mighty has done great things for me.

C **Holy is His name.**

P To God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be all honor and glory in His holy church, forever and ever.

C **Amen. Christ died! Christ is risen! Christ shall come again!**

Benediction

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374 sts. 1–3



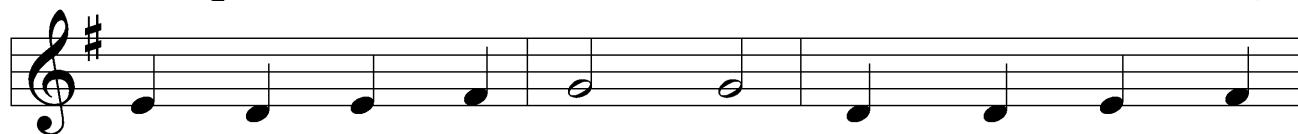
1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a
2 “Fa - vored One,” spake Ga - bri - el To the maid - en
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a



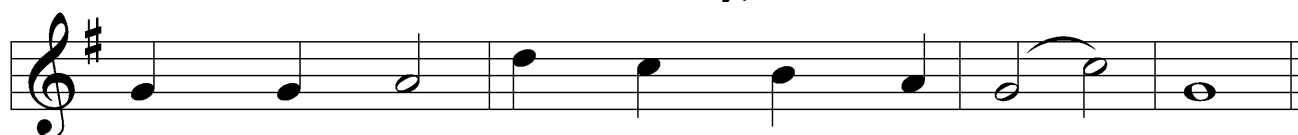
man - ger; There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a
Mar - y, “The true King of Is - ra - el Shall be of your
man - ger; He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a



strang - er. Such a babe in such a place,
bear - ing. Noth - ing is im - pos - si - ble;
strang - er. Son of God of hum - ble birth,



Can He be the Sav - ior? Ask the saved of
The Most High de - clares it!” “As His Word says,
Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry; Praise His name in



all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
let it be; I am but His ser - vant.”
all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text (sts. 1, 3): Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933; (st. 2): Joshua BrakhageTune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, Griefswald, 1582

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

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Postlude:

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LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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Organist Elena Miraztchiyska
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