

**Midweek of Advent 2**  
**December 10, 2025**

**All About Mary: She Was Betrothed to a Man**

**As We Gather** - During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the hope 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 learn more about our Savior, Jesus, by learning about Mary's husband, Joseph. Jesus, true man, was raised and taught by a human father, Joseph, a faithful husband for Mary.

**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 candles may be lit.*

## PREPARATION

### Hymn of Invocation:

### Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332

△ Please stand after a brief interlude.



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
God was there up - on His throne.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light  
Shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
Glory to the Spirit be  
Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4–5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter  
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## Psalm

*Psalm 61; antiphon: v. 2*

- P** From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint.  
**C** **Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.**
- P** Hear my cry, O God,  
**C** **listen to my prayer.**
- P** For You have been my refuge,  
**C** **a strong tower against the enemy.**
- P** Let me dwell in Your tent forever!  
**C** **Let me take refuge under the shelter of Your wings!**
- P** For You, O God, have heard my vows;  
**C** **You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name.**
- P** Prolong the life of the king;  
**C** **may his years endure to all generations!**
- P** May he be enthroned forever before God;  
**C** **appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!**
- P** So will I ever sing praises to Your name,  
**C** **as I perform my vows day after day.**

**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** From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint.  
**C** **Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.**

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.  
O light in our darkness, by Your Word, You brighten our path. When days are dark and our direction unclear, send Your guiding Spirit that we might be assured of Your nearness and cling to Your promises; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## First Reading

*Hosea 2:18–23*

<sup>18</sup>And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. <sup>19</sup>And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. <sup>20</sup>I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>"And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD,

I will answer the heavens,  
and they shall answer the earth,

<sup>22</sup>and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and they shall answer Jezreel,

<sup>23</sup>and I will sow her for myself in the land.

And I will have mercy on No Mercy,

and I will say to Not My People, 'You are my people';

and he shall say, 'You are my God.'"

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*Matthew 1:18–25*

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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

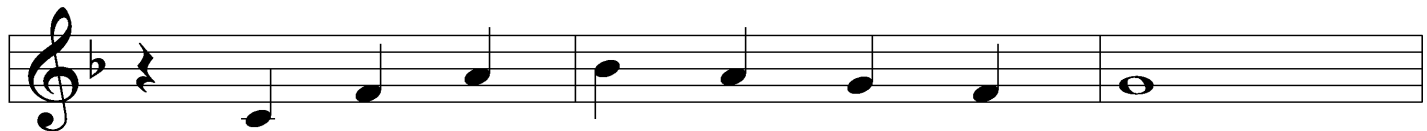
**C** Thanks be to God.

# Hymn:

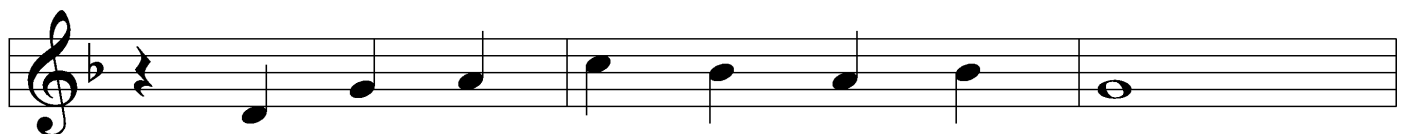
## Behold How God Takes Nothingness



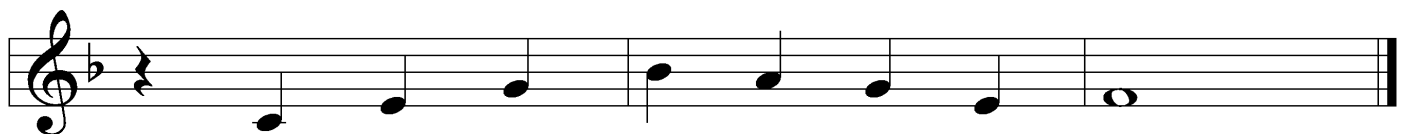
1 Be - hold how God takes noth - ing - ness  
 2 Oh, we of lit - tle faith be - hold  
 3 With her our soul does mag - ni - fy  
 4 How blest the womb where - in He lay,



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.

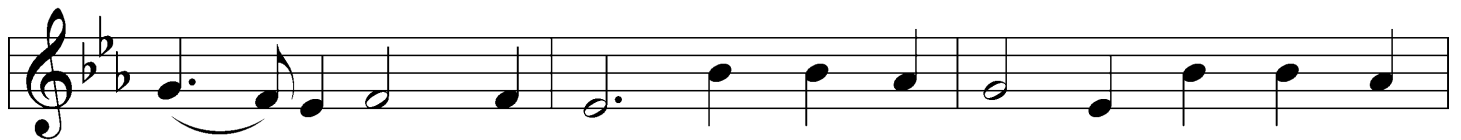
Hymn:

My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933



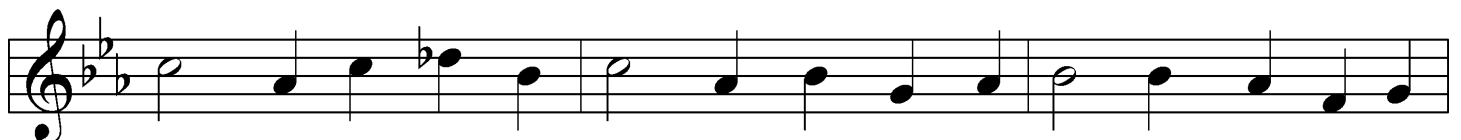
1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



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



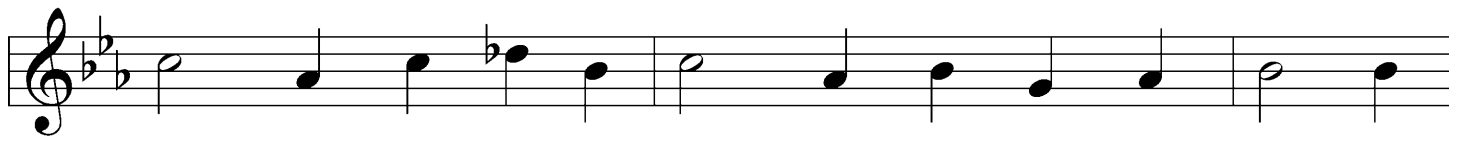
fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



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 David and Son of Joseph, Your arrival fulfills every promise ever made by the Lord, our God. Teach us to know You as the joy of every longing heart, that we might kneel before You, just as Your earthly guardian Joseph knelt beside Your manger, in trust that You hear our prayers and will bring us deliverance.

O holy Child of Nazareth, You learned and grew in the house of a carpenter. Build every father within Your great family into an honorable man, sacrificing for the sake of their household and leading them in holiness for the sake of Your name.

Particularly bless fathers who have a troubled relationship with their children; heal their hurts and bind them in kindness and love. Son of Joseph,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Incarnate Son of God, You dwelt among sawdust and splinters. Bless all those whose work is difficult and dangerous and take under Your protection all who put their hands to any useful task. Sustain the commerce and industry of this nation. Give all who work the just rewards for their labor and the knowledge that their work is a blessing in Your sight. Son of sweat and toil,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Son of heaven's splendor, You came into our world yet had no place to lay Your head. Mercifully care for the homeless, the hungry, the poor, the unemployed, the lonely, the sick, and the troubled of mind and heart. Relieve their want, provide for their livelihood, and make their needs known that Your servants might bring to them the blessings of Your hand. Son of suffering,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Into your hands O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. 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.

## 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.

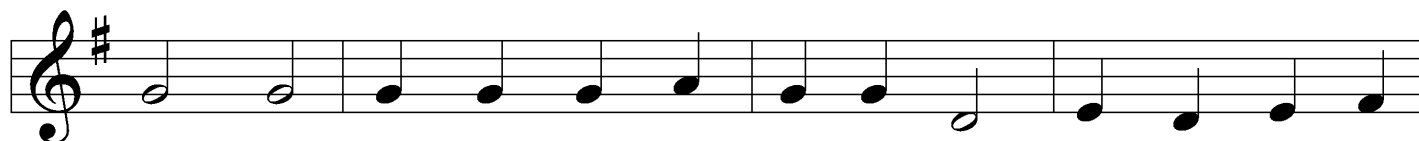
# Closing Hymn:

# Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374 sts. 1–3



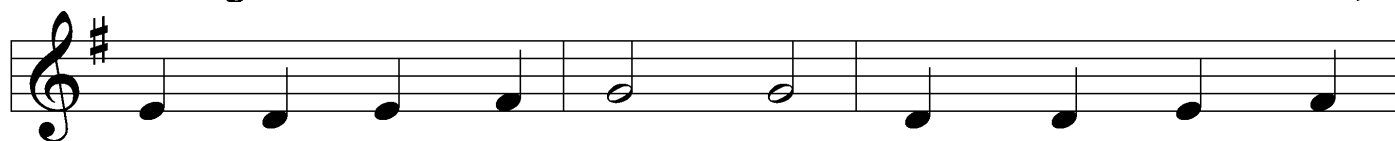
1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a  
 2 Gen - tle Mar - y by his side, Faith - ful Jo - seph  
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a



man - ger; There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a  
 trust - ed, Tak - ing her home as his wife As the an - gel  
 man - ger; He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a



strang - er. Such a babe in such a place,  
 prompt - ed. Fa - ther - ly toward God's own Son,  
 strang - er. Son of God of hum - ble birth,



Can He be the Sav - ior? Ask the saved of  
 Je - sus had a guard - ian Un - til by His  
 Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry; Praise His name in



all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
 blood Christ won His step - fa - ther's par - don.  
 all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text (sts. 1, 3): Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933; (st. 2): Joshua Brakhage Tune: 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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