

**Midweek of Advent 3  
December 17, 2025**

**All About Mary: And Mary Sang**

**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 turn our attention to the words of Mary in her great Magnificat, sung by the church for two millennia. Through this song, we hear the message of Jesus Christ, who has come to rescue us from our sin.

**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.*

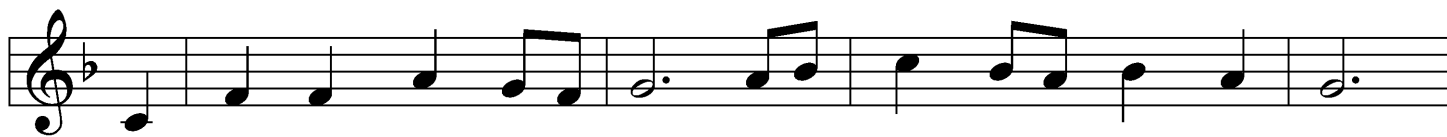
## PREPARATION

### Hymn of Invocation:

### The Advent of Our King

LSB 331

△ Please stand after a brief interlude.



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.  
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

△ 6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt. Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76 Text and tune: Public domain

### Psalm

*Psalm 85:1–4, 9–11; antiphon: v. 7*

**P** Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,  
**C** and grant us Your salvation.

**P** LORD, You were favorable to Your land;  
**C** You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**P** You forgave the iniquity of Your people;  
**C** You covered all their sin.

**P** You withdrew all Your wrath;  
**C** You turned from Your hot anger.

**P** Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
**C** and put away Your indignation toward us!

**P** Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,  
**C** **that glory may dwell in our land.**

**P** Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
**C** **righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

**P** Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
**C** **and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

**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** Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,  
**C** **and grant us Your salvation.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P** Let us pray.  
O light of the nations, Your spectacular reign is the hope of all peoples. Grant us humble hearts to anticipate the second advent and preserve us for Your kingdom, that we might declare the praises of Jesus, our coming King, to the ends of the earth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

### **First Reading**

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 10–11*

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

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

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

## Second Reading

*Luke 1:39–56*

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,  
<sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth  
heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with  
the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and  
blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my  
Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my  
ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there  
would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup>for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
<sup>52</sup>he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent empty away.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

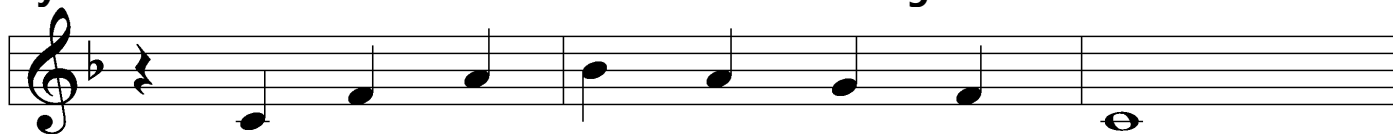
<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

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

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

# Hymn:

## Behold How God Takes Nothingness



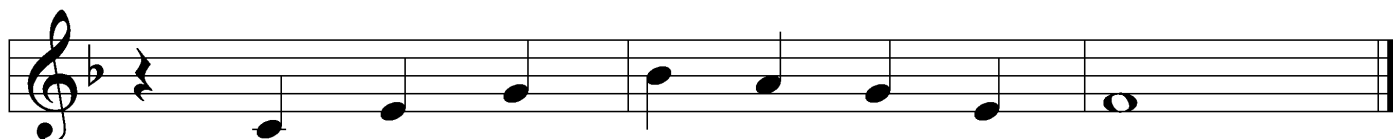
1 Be - hold how God takes noth - ing - ness  
 2 Oh, we of lit - tle faith be - hold  
 3 With her our soul does mag - ni - fy  
 4 How blest the womb where - in He lay,



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 God, You rightfully rule over all things. Our days and deeds belong to You, and we turn to You for guidance, joyfully surrendering our burdens and submitting to Your gracious will. So just as John celebrated at the sound of Your presence, we, too, rejoice that our Immanuel is with us to hear our prayers and answer us in mercy.

O promised Son of Adam, from the beginning, You have held humanity in the hope of evil's ultimate defeat. We pray for all trapped in darkness and in need of rescue. Free hearts held captive by addiction, anxiety, depression, dementia, and mental illness and liberate victims of slavery, human trafficking, ethnic warfare, and global injustice, that the humbled might be exalted by Your mighty hand. Son of deliverance,

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

**P** O Promised Son of Abraham, You remember Your mercy for generations. Make our households places where faith flourishes and where grandparents, parents, children, and neighbors together witness to Your faithfulness. Inspire those preparing for Baptism, confirmation, or ministry for lifelong service in Your name, that generations yet unborn will proclaim Your righteousness. Son of remembrance,

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

**P** O Promised Son of Israel, You led the people of Your keeping through the wilderness and to the Promised Land. Safeguard all who travel during this season. Keep them alert to possible dangers and protect them from distraction. Fill their journeys with joy, then bring them home in safety, until You bring us all to the eternal promised land, prepared by Your death and resurrection. Son of our salvation,

**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

**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 lists. 1–3



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a  
2 Un - born Lord of all the earth, Mar - y's son brought  
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  
won - der, Meet - ing John be - fore his birth Made him leap and  
man - ger; He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a

strang - er. Such a babe in such a place,  
thun - der. "Might - y God to low - ly man,"  
strang - er. Son of God of hum - ble birth,

Can He be the Sav - ior? Ask the saved of  
Mar - y praised His glo - ry! "Pow'r to hum - ble,  
Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry; Praise His name in

all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
weak, and poor; He re - versed our sto - ry!"  
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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**Postlude:**

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