



MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1

VESPERS

THE CHILD WHO IS ZECHARIAH'S HOPE

[Zechariah's name means "God remembers." When God remembers someone, He acts on that person's behalf. But when God acted in the ultimate way, announcing the coming birth of the Messiah—and the coming birth of Zechariah's own child who would be the Messiah's forerunner—Zechariah doubted God's word. God temporarily caused him to be a priest without a voice. Yet, God still remembered His promises and sent His Son, the Christ Child, to be the perfect Priest. He offered Himself up on the cross as the perfect sacrifice, to obtain forgiveness and eternal life for mistrusting priests like Zechariah and you and me. *What Child Is This?* This child is Zechariah's only hope for salvation—and ours too.]

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.**

HYMN # O Come, O Come, Emanuel Vs 1-4

+ READINGS +

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 40:1-5

L A reading from Isaiah, the fortieth chapter.

¹ Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

- L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 5:1–5

- L A reading from Romans, the fifth chapter.

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through Him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

- L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:5–25

- L A reading from Luke, the first chapter.

⁵ In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸ Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹ according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the

Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷ and he will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

¹⁸ And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” ¹⁹ And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” ²¹ And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²² And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³ And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴ After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, ²⁵ “Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

LSB, p. 230

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.**

SERMON

Hymn # 370 – What Child is This

Stand

ANTIPHON

LSB, p. 231

L Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

MAGNIFICAT

C **My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;**

1 for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.

2 For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

- 1 For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;
 - 2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
 - 1 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 - 2 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
 - 1 He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.
 - 2 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
- 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.

+ PRAYER +

Kneel/Stand

KYRIE

LSB, p. 233

- C Lord, have mercy;**
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

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.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P Merciful Father, You opened Elizabeth's barren womb and blessed her with a son who pointed the world to the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. Grant boldness to Your Church, that in these latter days, the Church would not be silent but proclaim Christ and Him crucified, for He is our only hope for salvation;

- L O Lord, hear my prayer.
C **And let my cry come to You.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

- 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. (410)

- C **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

LSB, p. 234

- L Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

- P The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C **Amen.**

HYMN # 344 - On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Thank you to Rachel for leading us in Music

Acknowledgments

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