



MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3

VESPERS

THE CHILD WHO IS JOHN'S JOY

It was a joyous scene when the ark of God drew near to Jerusalem in King David's day. The ark of the covenant was such a gift of grace and mercy, David did something that adults—especially kings—never do. He leapt for joy before the ark. But it was an even more joyous scene when John the Baptist, the forerunner, met Jesus, the Savior, for the first time, while they were both still in their mothers' wombs. John, in the womb of an elderly, formerly barren woman, leapt for joy at the voice of Mary, the Virgin carrying God's Son in her womb. God's special presence on earth would no longer be tied to a gold-covered box but rather to the incarnate Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. Our hearts have every reason to leap for joy as John the Baptist leapt. God's presence is among us as Christ draws near to us in His Word and Sacraments, and He has promised to be near to us forever when He comes again on the Last Day.

Invocation:

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 # 370 – What Child is This

+ READINGS +

OLD TESTAMENT

2 Samuel 6:12–23

L A reading from Second Samuel, the sixth chapter.

¹² And it was told King David, “The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. ¹³ And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. ¹⁴ And David danced before the LORD with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁵ So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn. ¹⁶ As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart. ¹⁷ And they brought in the ark of the LORD and set it in its place, inside the tent

that David had pitched for it. And David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. ¹⁸ And when David had finished offering the burnt offerings and the peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts ¹⁹ and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one. Then all the people departed, each to his house.

²⁰ And David returned to bless his household. But Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, “How the king of Israel honored himself today, uncovering himself today before the eyes of his servants’ female servants, as one of the vulgar fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!” ²¹ And David said to Michal, “It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the LORD—and I will celebrate before the LORD. ²² I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and I will be abased in your eyes. But by the female servants of whom you have spoken, by them I shall be held in honor.” ²³ And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L A reading from Luke, the first chapter.

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

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 # 817 – Earth and All Stars

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

- L 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 Lord Jesus Christ, when John heard the voice of Your mother, You caused him to leap for joy in Elizabeth's womb for You were now present in the flesh to save all flesh. Draw near to us in Your Word and Sacraments and stir up our hearts that we, being ever mindful of Your gracious visitation, may leap for joy and serve You with gladness through this life into the life and the world to come, where we shall behold You face to face in the resurrection of all flesh;
- 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 # 353 – Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

(To the tune of 621 – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

Thank you to Angela for leading us in Music

Acknowledgments

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