



ADVENT VESPERS

December 18th

ADVENT GATHERINGS

Join us this season as we reflect upon the incarnation and life of our Lord Jesus.

Advent Vespers

December 4th
6:30pm | Auditorium

Advent Vespers

December 11th
6:30pm | Auditorium

Cookies and Caroling

December 15th
2pm | Haven at Lakewood

Advent Vespers

December 18th
6:30pm | Auditorium

Christmas Sunday Services

December 22nd
9:30am or 11am | Auditorium

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th
4pm or 6pm | Auditorium

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

I saw in the night visions,
and behold, with the clouds
of heaven there came one
like a son of man, and he
came to the Ancient of Days
and was presented before
him. And to him was given
dominion and glory and a
kingdom, that all peoples,
nations, and languages
should serve him; his
dominion is an everlasting
dominion, which shall not
pass away, and his kingdom
one that shall not be
destroyed.

Daniel 7:13–14.

SONG | ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountain in reply
Echo back their joyous strains

Glo - o - o - o ria
In ex - cel - sis De - o
Glo - o - o - o ria
In ex - cel - sis De - o

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
Say what may the tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

See Him in a manger laid
Jesus Lord of heaven and earth
Mary Joseph lend your aid
With us sing our Savior's birth

¹ Adapted from, *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*; Gibson

READING OF THE LAW

The words of our Lord Jesus:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Matt. 22:37–40

Lord Jesus, by the mystery of your holy incarnation, by your holy nativity, by your baptism, fasting, and temptations—*deliver us, O Lord.*

By your agony and bloody sweat, by your cross and passions, by your death and burial, by your resurrection and ascension, by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter—*deliver us, O Lord.*
Amen.

– Martin Bucer

CONFESSION OF SIN

O God the Father of heaven,
have mercy upon us.
O God the Son, Redeemer of
the world, *have mercy upon us.*
O God the Holy Spirit, *have
mercy upon us.*

*Be merciful to us and spare us,
O Lord.*

*Be merciful to us and deliver
us, O Lord.*

From all sin, from all error,
from all evil—*deliver us, O Lord.*
From the wiles of the devil
and from everlasting death—
deliver us, O Lord.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven. Blessed are those
who mourn, for they shall be
comforted.

Matt. 5:3–4

**THE THIRTY-NINE
ARTICLES OF RELIGION,
ARTICLE 2**

Of the Word or Son of God,
Which Was Made Very Man

The Son, which is the Word of the Father, begotten from everlasting of the Father, the very and eternal God, and of one substance with the Father, took Man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin, of her substance: so that two whole and perfect Natures, that is to say, the Godhead and Manhood, were joined together in one Person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God, and very Man; who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile his Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of men.

SONG | DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom
all blessings flow

Praise Him, all
creatures here below

Praise Him above,
ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost

Let earth and heavenly
saints proclaim

The power and might
of His great Name

Let us exalt on bended knee

Praise God the holy Trinity

Praise to the King
His throne transcends

His crown and Kingdom
never end

Now and throughout eternity

I'll praise the One Who
died for me

Praise God from whom
all blessings flow

Praise Him, all
creatures here below

Praise Him above,
ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son,
and Holy Ghost, Amen.

DEVOTIONAL²

“Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, Thou long-expected
Jesus, born to set Thy people
free; From our fears and sins
release us, Let us find our
rest in Thee. Israel's
Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou
art; Dear Desire of every
nation, Joy of every longing
heart.

Lk. 12:35–40

- How is Jesus our strength
and consolation?
- How can we remind
ourselves, and others, that
waiting for Jesus is worth it?

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Lord, give us the faith we
need to rest in Jesus, trusting
that He is the answer to our
every need. As Israel once
awaited His arrival, we now
await his return when he will
get to see our Savior. Keep us
faithful until the end. Amen.

² Sing in Exultation!; Cruse

SONG | COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

Come Thou long expected
Jesus, born to set Thy people
free. From our fears and sins
release us, let us find our
rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and
consolation, hope of all the
earth Thou art. Dear desire of
every nation, joy of every
longing heart.

Come to earth to taste our
sadness, he whose glories
knew no end. By his life he
brings us gladness our
Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.

Leaving riches without
number, born within a cattle
stall. This the everlasting
wonder, Christ was born the
Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver,
born a Child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever,
now Thy gracious kingdom
bring.

King of kings from highest
heaven, Lord of lords come
rule alone. Son of God so
sweetly given, make our
hearts Your holy throne.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name. Your
kingdom come, your will
be done, on earth as it is
in heaven.

Give us this day our daily
bread, and forgive us our
debts as we forgive our
debtors. And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us
from evil.

For yours is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May grace and peace be
multiplied to you in the
knowledge of God and of
Jesus our Lord.

2 Pet. 1:2

FOR FURTHER MEDITATION

Snappy Quote

If Christ had arrived with trumpets and lain in a cradle of gold, his birth would have been a splendid affair. But it would not be a comfort to me. He was rather to lie in the lap of a poor maiden and be thought of little significance in the eyes of the world. Now I can come to him. Now he reveals himself to the miserable in order not to give any impression that he arrives with great power, splendor, wisdom, and aristocratic manners.

- Martin Luther

