



ADVENT VESPERS

December 4th

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

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

Titus 2:11–14

SONG | O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come Thou Dayspring
come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy
clouds of night
And death's dark shadows
put to flight

O come Thou Wisdom
from on high
And order all things far and
nigh
To us the path of knowledge
show
And cause us in her ways to go

O come Desire of nations bind
All peoples in one heart and
mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels
cease
Fill the whole world with
heaven's peace

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

READING OF THE LAW

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Jn. 15:9–12

CONFESSION OF SIN

We appeal, O Lord, to your mercies, knowing you are that God who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn and live.

You are our Savior, who wishes all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of your truth.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly ask you not to withdraw your mercies from us because of our sins, but rather, O Lord, lay upon us your saving health, that you may show yourself toward us to be a Savior.

For what greater praise can there be to a Physician, than to heal the sick; neither can there be any greater glory to you being a Savior, than to save sinners. Amen.

- Henry Smith

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Col. 3:1–4

THE BELGIC CONFESSION, ARTICLE 10

The Deity of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, according to his divine nature, is the only Son of God—eternally begotten, not made nor created, for then he would be a creature.

He is one in essence with the Father; coeternal; the exact image of the person of the Father and the “reflection of his glory,” being in all things like him.

He is the Son of God not only from the time he assumed our nature but from all eternity, as the following testimonies teach us when they are taken together.

Moses says that God “created the world”; and John says that “all things were created by the Word,” which he calls God. The letter to the Hebrews says that “God made the world by his Son.” Paul says that “God created all things by Jesus Christ.”

And so it must follow that he who is called God, the Word, the Son, and Jesus Christ already existed when all things were created by him. Therefore the prophet Micah says that his origin is “from ancient times, from eternity.” And Hebrews says that he has “neither beginning of days nor end of life.”

So then, he is the true eternal God, the Almighty, whom we invoke, worship, and serve.

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

“Far As the Curse is Found”

No more let sins and sorrows
grow, nor thorns infest the
ground; He comes to make
His blessings flow far as the
curse is found.

Gen. 3:8–19

- In what ways do we now see the blessing of Christ in the midst of sin's curse?
- In what ways do we still await further redemption?

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Father, we thank you that you don't leave us in our sin, though we deserve it. We praise you for your rescuing grace, which sent Jesus to transform the curse of sin into the blessing of salvation. In his name we pray. Amen.

² Sing in Exultation!; Cruse

SONG | JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of
His righteousness and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love, and wonders,
wonders of His love.

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 the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Rom. 15:13



FOR FURTHER MEDITATION

Snappy Quote

The infinite became finite,
the eternal and supratemporal
entered time and became
subject to its conditions, the
immutable became mutable,
the invisible became the
visible, the Creator became
the created, the Sustainer of
all became dependent, the
Almighty infirm. All is summed
up in the proposition,
"God became man."

- John Murray