



we have seen His star in the East  
and have come to worship Him

**ADVENT MIDWEEK - DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

# **WELCOME**

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Please sign the guest register in the entry  
as you leave the church today.

## **TODAY'S SERVICE**

**December 8th, 2021**

**Speaker:**

Pastor Matthew Ude

**Pianist:**

Vanessa Ude

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# PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

## *Psalm 72:1-19*

Give the king Your judgments, O God, And Your righteousness to the king's Son. <sup>2</sup> He will judge Your people with righteousness, And Your poor with justice. <sup>3</sup> The mountains will bring peace to the people, And the little hills, by righteousness. <sup>4</sup> He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, And will break in pieces the oppressor. <sup>5</sup> They shall fear You As long as the sun and moon endure, Throughout all generations. <sup>6</sup> He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, Like showers *that* water the earth. <sup>7</sup> In His days the righteous shall flourish, And abundance of peace, Until the moon is no more. <sup>8</sup> He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>9</sup> Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, And His enemies will lick the dust. <sup>10</sup> The kings of Tarshish and of the isles Will bring presents; The kings of Sheba and Seba Will offer gifts. <sup>11</sup> Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him. <sup>12</sup> For He will deliver the needy when he cries, The poor also, and *him* who has no helper. <sup>13</sup> He will spare the poor and needy, And will save the souls of the needy. <sup>14</sup> He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; And precious shall be their blood in His sight. <sup>15</sup> And He shall live; And the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; Prayer also will be made for Him continually, *And* daily He shall be praised. <sup>16</sup> There will be an abundance of grain in the earth, On the top of the mountains; Its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; And *those* of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth. <sup>17</sup> His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And *men* shall be blessed in Him; All nations shall call Him blessed. <sup>18</sup> Blessed *be* the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! <sup>19</sup> And blessed *be* His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled *with* His glory. Amen and Amen.

# SERVICE OF THE WORD

## OPENING PRAYER

P Heavenly Father, You revealed Your Son to the Magi that they might know Him as King, worthy of all worship. Grant us Your Spirit through the Word that we might know Jesus rightly, worshiping Him as King of all creation, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### #645 "Behold, a Branch is Growing"

by Unknown, c. 1500

i. Behold a branch is growing  
As of loveliest form and grace,  
As prophets sung, foreknowing;  
It springs from Jesse's race  
And bears one little Flower  
In midst of coldest winter,  
At deepest midnight hour.

2. Isaiah hath foretold It  
In words of promise sure,  
And Mary' s arms enfold It,  
A virgin meek and pure.  
Through God's eternal will  
This Child to her is given  
At midnight calm and still.

3. The shepherds heard the story,  
Proclaimed by angels bright,  
How Christ, the Lord of Glory,  
Was born on earth this night.  
To Bethlehem they sped  
And in the manger found him,  
As angel heralds said.

5. o Savior, Child of Mary,  
Who felt our human woe;  
Savior, King of Glory.  
Who dost our weakness know,  
Bring us at length, we pray.  
To the bright courts of heaven  
And to the endless day.

# INVOCATION

p In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

P Give the king Your justice, O God,  
and Your righteousness to the royal son!  
May He judge your people with righteousness,  
and Your poor with justice!  
Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness!  
May He defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the children of the needy,  
and crush the oppressor!

C **May they fear You while the sun endures,  
and as long as the moon,  
throughout all generations!**  
**May He be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth!**  
**In His days may the righteous flourish,  
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!**

# CONFESSION OF SINS

- P God's only Son lies helpless in a manger, poor and bare and lowly to set you free from all your sorrow wholly. Confident that Christ frees us from sin's sorrow, let us confess our sins to God and receive His forgiveness.
- P Gracious heavenly Father, we have embraced sorrow through our sin. Though You created us to live in creation's goodness, we have brought sorrow upon ourselves and others. As You have sent Your Son in humankind, free us from sorrow by His merit.**
- P God's majesty has come to earth to be born of a virgin in order to set you free from sin and its sorrow. Therefore, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## READINGS

**Micah 5:2-5a** <sup>2</sup> "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting." <sup>3</sup> Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time *that* she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel. <sup>4</sup> And He shall stand and feed *His flock* In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth; <sup>5</sup> And this *One* shall be peace.

**1 Peter 1:3-9** <sup>3</sup> Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a



little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, <sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup> whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, <sup>9</sup> receiving the end of your faith-- the salvation of *your* souls.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

# THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, Born of the virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

## #127 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

by William C. Dix, 1837-1898

- i. As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright,

So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led by Thee!

2. As with joyful steps they sped,  
Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Thee whom heaven and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy-seat!
3. As they offered gifts most rare  
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King!
4. Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past.  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

# SERMON

**Matthew 2:1-12** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> 'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." <sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went

before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

## **SORROW NOT**

## MAGNIFICAT LUKE 1:46–55

- P My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant.
- C **For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.**
- P And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.
- C **He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.**
- P He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

# OFFERING

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Lord Jesus, to whom sages came bearing gifts,  
C receive the gifts we present in gratitude for all You have given for our salvation.
- P Lord Jesus, whom humbled sages worshiped,  
C accept the praise of our lips even as we have received Your blessings beyond number.
- P Lord Jesus, Judah's Lion,  
C cause all those in authority to serve faithfully according to Your will and to the benefit of all.
- P Lord Jesus, God's majesty come to earth,  
C give us faith to trust that Your majesty dwells among us today in Your Word, in Holy Baptism, and in Your Supper.
- P Lord Jesus, born of a virgin,

**C** as You humbled Yourself to be born of a virgin, so teach us to humbly serve one another.

**P** Lord Jesus, lying helpless in a manger, poor and bare and lowly,

**C** set us free from all our sorrow wholly.

**P** Hear us as we pray in Your name and as You have taught us:

## **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.



# THE BENEDICTION

p The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen

## #558 "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"

by Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

1. All praise to Thee, my God, this night  
For all the blessings of the light.  
Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings,  
Beneath Thy own almighty wings.
2. Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,  
The ill that I this day have done  
That with the world, myself and Thee,  
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

3. Teach me to live that I may dread  
The grave as little as my bed.  
Teach me to die that so I may  
Rise glorious at the awe-ful Day.

4. Oh, may my soul on Thee repose,  
And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,  
Sleep that shall me more vigorous make  
To serve my God when I awake.

5. When in the night I sleepless lie,  
My soul with heavenly thoughts supply;  
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,  
No powers of darkness me molest.

6. 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.





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