



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
Mid-week Advent Worship
December 3, 2025 9:30am

REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER HIS SANCTURARY, PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH THIS WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP



*Series – When Heaven Met Earth: Advent Answers to Hard Questions
People ask about The Birth of God: How . . . and Why?*

Tonight – How Can God Take on Human Flesh... and Why?
(Psssst... Come each Wednesday through Christmas Eve!)

***Risen Christ Lutheran Church
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734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info***

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe that the Lord’s Supper is not symbolic. We believe what Jesus Himself said: that His body and blood are truly present in this, His meal that He instituted for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above and you are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and you have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to the Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Grape Juice is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world through your here! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR MEMBERS AND GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Everyone please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. For Guests, Pastor will send you a welcome card and please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – We all have questions, though for a variety of reasons some choose not to ask them. It is true in a classroom and in various aspects of life, and it is also true in our lives of faith. Some teachers tell their students, “There is no such thing as a bad question,” and for the most part that encouragement and attitude is a good one. Our heavenly Father would carry the same sentiment as He invites whatever we bring before Him, including our questions. This Advent season, a few hard questions will be asked about our Lord, and our answers will be found in His Word and through the awaited Savior born for us. Today begins with some “how” and “why” questions and answers as we journey together in Advent anticipation.

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. 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.

2. Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

***ENDING: By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.***

Collect

Thanksgiving for Light

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

Reading

Jeremiah 33:2–3, 14–16

P God's Word speaks answers to our questions. The Lord revealed through the prophet Jeremiah a peace that would last.

"Thus says the LORD who made the earth,

G **the LORD who formed it to establish it—the Lord is His name:**

P Call to Me and I will answer you,

G **and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."**

P “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David,

C **and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.**

P In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called:

C **‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”**

Psalm

Psalm 24:1–4, 7–10

P The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

C **for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.**

P Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

C **And who shall stand in His holy place?**

P He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

Lift up your heads, O gates!

C **And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

P Who is this King of glory?

C **The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates!**

P And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

C **The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

Prayer

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Reading

Luke 1:26–38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

Sermon – How Can God Take on Human Flesh . . . and Why?

I. God is infinitely beyond our ability to comprehend.

II. Yet by mystery and miracle, God was truly born into human flesh.

III. He did it because he loves us so much he would never give up on us.

Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Creedal Response

The Second Article

P The season of Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at His second coming. It is a time of reflection on redemption. Luther's Small Catechism, useful for individual and household learning through questions and answers based on God's unchanging Word, reminds us of Jesus' incarnation into this world, the totality of Christ's complete work, and the redemption He achieved for us. We confess together:

C **And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

Regular Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, in this season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate again the coming of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and await His promised return. As questions enter our minds, such as "How can You take on human flesh, and why?," we thank You for Your Word of truth, which gives the answers of Your love for this world in sending Your only-begotten Son. By Your Spirit's work through Your Word, enliven our hearts and minds, nourish our faith, and be with us as we wait and watch this season and each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, through the incarnation of Your Son, heaven met earth, and through Him You would bring life and immortality to light. Be with those who face this season with doubts and despair, depression and difficulties. Give Your comfort to those who seek our prayers, [*especially...*]. Grant healing according to Your will, along with peaceful minds and hopeful hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Advent Collect

P Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility; that on the Last Day, when He shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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.

Luther's Evening Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Closing Sentences

Jeremiah 33:3; Psalm 24:7-10

P Call to Me and I will answer you,

C and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

P Lift up your heads, O gates!

C And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

P Who is this King of glory?

C The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates!

- P** And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?
C **The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

The Advent of Our King



- 1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
 2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
 3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
 Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
 Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
 And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

- 5 Before the dawning day
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
 The sinful self be put away,
 The new self now put on.
- △ 6 All glory to the Son,
 Who comes to set us free,
 With Father, Spirit, ever one
 Through all eternity.

Benediction

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
C **Amen.**

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