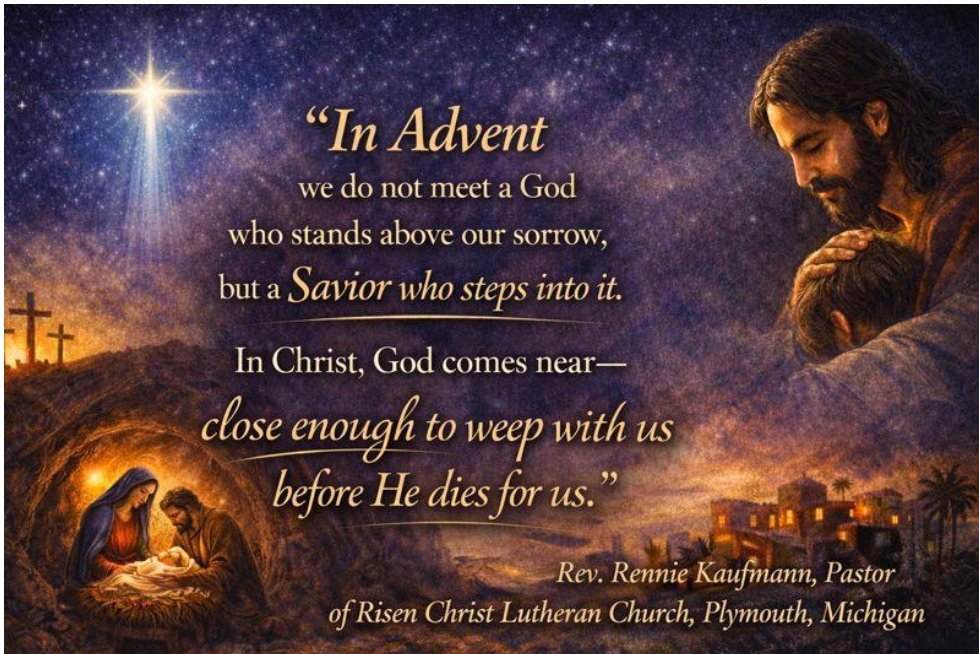




Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
Mid-week Advent Worship  
December 17, 2025 7pm

**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 – The Man’s Man: Why Would Jesus Ever Cry?**

PLEASE BRING FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO A  
**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 4:30pm and 7pm!**

**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](http://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** – “Why are you crying?” It is a question parents may ask their child, a person may ask a friend, or a husband or wife may ask each other. It is asked at times out of curiosity, but also asked so help can be offered and comfort given. As Jesus was true God and true man entering this world in our flesh, He too with full human emotions cried. “Jesus, why are You crying?” We ask that question and find our answer in God’s Word as we continue and close our Advent series. As an infant, to a young boy, to an adult fulfilling the mission His Father had given to Him for the sake of the world, Christ shows compassion and care. There was no help or comfort any person could give. Through His fully human and divine natures and the life He would give, He assures an eternal and lasting help and comfort for us in our times of trials and times of tears.

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Invocation and Opening Sentences**

*LSB 334:1*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G Amen.**

**P** O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?

**G Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart’s delight!**

**P** In this Advent season, reflecting on and anticipating the joy to come when heaven met earth through the promised and long-awaited Savior, we seek answers to our questions as we remain on this earth.

## Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,  
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais-ing Thee, their sun a - bove.  
Stars and an-gels sing a-round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro-ken praise.  
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean-depth of hap-py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - 'ry mead-ow, flash-ing sea,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di-vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

## 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.

**C** Amen.

## Readings

*Matthew 9:36; Isaiah 63:9; Hebrews 5:7*

**P** God's Word speaks answers to our questions. We see throughout Jesus' earthly life the care He had for the people He came to save.

When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless,

**C** like sheep without a shepherd.

**P** In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them;

**C** in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

**P** In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears,

**C** to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence.

## Psalm

*Psalm 42:1–6a, 8–11*

**P** As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for You, O God.

**C** **My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.**

**P** When shall I come and appear before God?

**C** **My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me continually, “Where is your God?”**

**P** These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?

**C** **Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation and my God.**

**P** By day the LORD commands His steadfast love, and at night His song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life. I say to God, my rock: “Why have You forgotten me?”

**C** **Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”**

**P** As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually,

**C** **“Where is your God?” Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?**

**P** Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,

**C** **my salvation and my God.**

## 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 19:41–44*

<sup>41</sup>And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, <sup>42</sup>saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. <sup>43</sup>For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side <sup>44</sup>and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Reading

John 11:30–36

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. <sup>34</sup>And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup>Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

**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 – The Man’s Man: Why Would Jesus Ever Cry?

1. Because his heart was filled with sadness and compassion over sin and death.
2. Because, as a Man’s Man, He was not afraid to cry—or to sacrifice himself for those who grieve.

### “Here With Us”

1. It's still a mystery to me  
That the hands of God could be so small  
How tiny fingers reachin' in the night  
Were the very hands that measured the sky

***CHORUS: (Oh) Hallelujah hallelujah***  
***Heaven's love reaching down to save the world***  
***Hallelujah hallelujah***  
***Son of God Servant King here with us***  
***(You're here with us)***

2. It's still a mystery to me  
How His infant eyes had seen the dawn of time  
How His ears had heard an angel symphony  
Still Mary had to rock her Savior to sleep

***Interlude***  
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel

***Bridge***  
Jesus the Christ  
Born in Bethlehem  
A Baby born to save  
To save the souls of man

***Ending***  
Here with us  
Here with us  
Here with us

## Credal 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](http://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 "Why would Jesus ever cry?," we thank You for Your Word of truth, which gives the answers of Your love for this world that You would send Your only-begotten Son, who held human emotions in our true flesh and compassionate crying for the people He loved and came to save. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Heavenly Father, in this world we cry tears of compassion for those we love, as well as tears of pain, distress, and discomfort for ourselves as we experience the brokenness of this world and our own bodies. In questions and even doubts during times of need, pour out the lasting comfort Christ has come to bring. We lift up before You those who request 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

*Matthew 9:36; Isaiah 63:9; Hebrews 5:7*

- P** When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless,  
**C** like sheep without a shepherd.
- P** In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them;  
**C** in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.
- P** In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears,  
**C** to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence.

## Benediction

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the  $\text{✠}$  Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.  
**G** Amen.

## 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.

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