

Preparing for His Coming

Week 1 of 3

"The Nativity Scene"



The Lutheran Church of the Savior

Advent Worship – December 2, 2020

Invocation

P We gather in the name of our Triune God,

C **the name that is above all names.**

P In the name of the Father,

C **Our Creator and Provider, who made the world and all that is in it.**

P And of the Son,

C **Our Redeemer, who has delivered us from sin and gives us new life in Him.**

P And of the Holy Spirit,

C **Our Comforter, who calls us by the Gospel and keeps us in the saving faith.**

Amen.

Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332 sts. 1-2, 7-8



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.

7 From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.

8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

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Confession

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination.

P Holy and gracious God,

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deed of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

P By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.

C **Amen.**

Psalm (*read responsively*)

Psalm 8:1–9

¹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

²**Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you have established strength
because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.**

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

⁴**what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?**

⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶**You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,**

⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

⁸**the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

⁹O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Reading

Isaiah 7:10–14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Reading

Luke 2:1–16

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358 sts. 1, 5–7, 9



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad- dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes, And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair? It is the Christ Child lying there.
- 9 Ah, Lord, though You created all, How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head Where lowly cattle lately fed!

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Message

"The Nativity Scene"

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

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Prayers

- P** For the increase of peace among the nations, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Christ the Lord, bring peace on earth.**
- P** For the spread of the joyful news that the Savior has come, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Christ the Lord, bring joy to the world.**
- P** For the poor and those who find no room, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Christ the Lord, bring help to the poor.**
- P** For the renewal of the whole church in unity, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Christ the Lord, bring renewal to the Church.**
- P** For the light of Advent anticipation to shine on us all, let us pray to the Lord.
C **Christ the Lord, bring us the light of Your truth.**
- P** Rejoicing at Your coming and trusting in Your mercy, O Christ, Light of the world, we pray Your blessings upon our Advent preparations and Christmas celebrations.
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.**

Litany of the Crèche

- P** Sheep, cow, donkey, lamb, camel - the animals from the nativity scene,
C **symbolize all the creatures of God's creation.**
- P** The stable which surrounded and covered and housed all who came to see baby Jesus that night,
C **symbolizes the entire physical world that God created and sustains, in which we are surrounded and covered and housed.**

P The shepherds that came from the field outside of Bethlehem to see this thing that had happened,

C **symbolize the humble men and people of lowly status, whom Jesus has included in His Kingdom.**

P The figures of Mary and Joseph, who accepted what the Lord had told them through the angel messengers about the blessed Christ child,

C **symbolize God's faithful people who wait expectantly for the coming of the Lord.**

P The baby Jesus reminds us of our joyfully confession, that for us men and for our salvation our Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man, thus fulfilling the word of the prophet Isaiah, "a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." *Isaiah 7:14*

Let our nativity scenes remind us that the Lord Jesus came into our flesh and is truly our Savior.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You caused Your only-begotten Son to be born of the blessed virgin Mary for our salvation. Bless our nativity scenes, which show the wonders of that sacred birth, that all who behold them, may ponder and adore the mystery of His holy incarnation and may joyfully partake in His divine grace unto life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

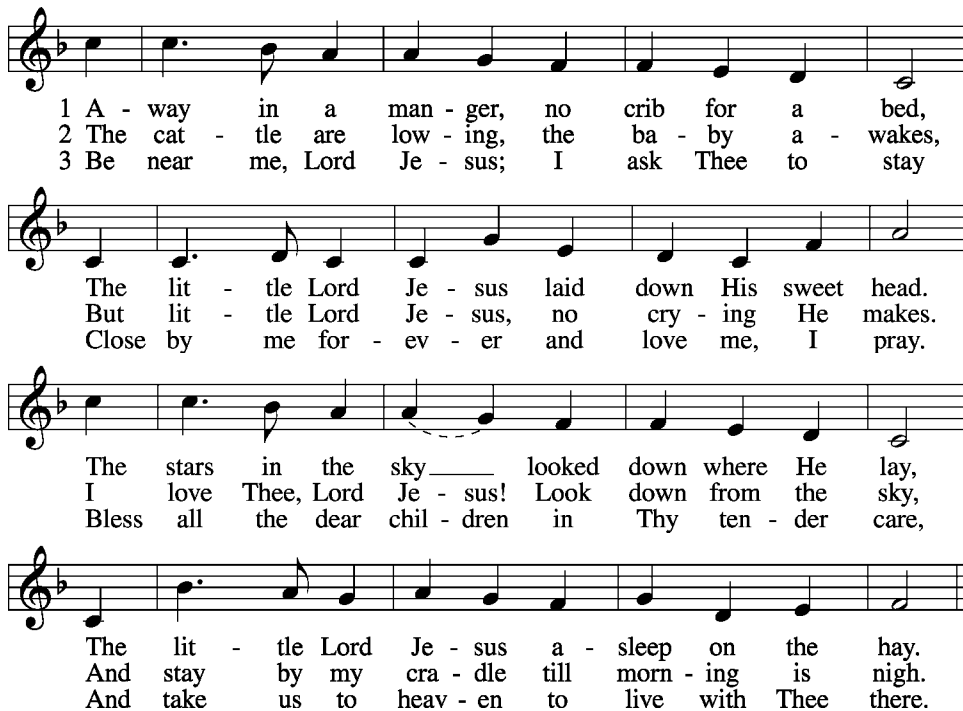
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Away in a Manger

LSB 364



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

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