



Advent 1 Midweek Service

December 3, 2025

Redeemer Lutheran Church

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MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 1 VESPERS

EVERGREENS

“Prepare!” is often the watchword of the season as the world gets ready for another celebration of Christmas. An integral part of any preparation is decoration. We see decorations everywhere this time of year. The world may not comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, but even secular preparations use many of the same decorations beloved by Christians—an appropriation we shouldn’t mind at all, because these decorations point us to Christ. This year, as we look forward again to the coming of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the love, peace, joy, and hope He comes to bring as this beauty is set before us.

Tonight, we focus on evergreens. Perhaps the most innocuous decorations in the eyes of the world, their prickles remind us of the crown of thorns, and the berries of the holly evoke the blood-stained brow of our crucified Lord. Above all, the steadfastness of their green in the midst of death symbolizes life amid death—and the life eternal Jesus won for us on the cross.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 51:15; 70:1

P O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

+ PSALMODY +

PSALM

Psalm 92; antiphon: v. 12

The righteous flourish like the | palm tree*
and grow like a cedar in | Lebanon.

It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,*
to sing praises to Your name, | O Most High;
to declare Your steadfast love in the | morning,*
and Your faithful- | ness by night,
to the music of the lute | and the harp,*
to the melody | of the lyre.

For You, O LORD, have made me glad | by Your work;*
at the works of Your hands I | sing for joy.

How great are Your works, | O LORD!*
Your thoughts are | very deep!

The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot under- | stand this:*
that though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish,
they are doomed to destruction for- | ever;

but You, | O LORD,*
are on high for- | ever.

For behold, Your enemies, O LORD, for behold, Your enemies shall | perish;*
all evildoers shall be | scattered.

But You have exalted my horn like that of the | wild ox;*
You have poured over me | fresh oil.

My eyes have seen the downfall of my | enemies;*
my ears have heard the doom of my evil as- | sailants.

The righteous flourish like the | palm tree*
and grow like a cedar in | Lebanon.

They are planted in the house | of the LORD;*
they flourish in the courts | of our God.

They still bear fruit in | old age;*

they are ever full of | sap and green,

to declare that the LORD is | upright;*

He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness | in Him.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

The righteous flourish like the | palm tree*

and grow like a cedar in | Lebanon.

HYMN

“People, Look East” (481 Tune)

People, look east. The time is near

Of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able,

Trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east, and sing today—

Love, the Guest, is on the way. Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965. Public domain

+ READINGS +

FIRST READING

Hosea 14:4–8

P A reading from Hosea, the fourteenth chapter.

⁴I will heal their apostasy; I will love them freely, for My anger has turned from them. ⁵I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily; he shall take root like the trees of Lebanon; ⁶his shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive, and his fragrance like Lebanon. ⁷They shall return and dwell beneath my shadow; they shall flourish like the grain; they shall blossom like the vine; their fame shall be like the wine of Lebanon. ⁸O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; from Me comes your fruit.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Revelation 22:1–5

P A reading from Revelation, the twenty-second chapter.

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ²through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His servants will worship Him. ⁴They will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. ⁵And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING

John 11:17–27

P A reading from John, the eleventh chapter.

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, He found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met Him, but Mary remained seated in the house. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You.” ²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷She said to Him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

LSB, p. 230

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

HYMN

“The Holly and the Ivy”

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

***Refrain: Oh, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer.
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.***

The holly bears a blossom as white as any flow’r,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Savior. ***Refrain***

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good. ***Refrain***

The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn. ***Refrain***

The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all. ***Refrain***

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown.
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown. ***Refrain***

Text: English carol. Public domain

SERMON

+ CANTICLE +

ANTIPHON

LSB, p. 231

P Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

MAGNIFICAT

LSB, p. 231

C My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
 ! for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
 @ For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
 ! For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;
 @ and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
 ! He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the
 imagination of their hearts.
 @ He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
 ! He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty
 away.
 @ He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke
 to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

OFFERING

+ PRAYER +

KYRIE

LSB, p. 233

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father who art in heaven, . . . forever and ever. Amen.

COLLECTS

P O Lord, hear my prayer.
 C **And let my cry come to You.**
 P For eyes to behold the Father's hand in all creation, let us pray to the Lord:
 C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we may see the signs of Christ's return even as we celebrate His birth, and encourage one another all the more as we see the Day drawing near, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That we may be living testimonies of new life in Christ through our loving service to our neighbor—both in word and in deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That we may be thankful for the bountiful harvest we enjoy amid the many festivities of this season, and be generous to the poor, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That we may love one another as God so loved us, forgive one another, and work together in the unity we have in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P That we may not be lured into temptation or despair or be distracted by the false Christmases around us, but always hold the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Lord of life, You sent Your Son to bring back to life all the children of Adam. Grant that we may view the evergreens of this season through the eyes of faith so that in a world still filled with death, we may be of good courage, knowing that, just as the evergreen prevails over death in winter, we prevail over the winter of our sin and will rise to life eternal on the Last Day; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

ADDITIONAL COLLECTS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts

may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB, p. 234

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB, p. 234

P The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (*LSB* 357:1, 4)