

SOLA SCRIPTURA ✘ SOLA GRATIA ✘ SOLA FIDE

Vespers for the Annunciation of Our Lord



Our Savior Lutheran Church

Westminster, Massachusetts

SCRIPTURE ALONE ✘ GRACE ALONE ✘ FAITH ALONE

Introduction to the Recorded Service

TUNE: LSB 357--HYMN: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

[Link to the music on YouTube](#)

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!
- 2 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

- 3 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!
- 4 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

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TLH 41: THE OPENING VERSICLES

O Lord, open Thou my lips,
and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise.

Psalm 51:15

Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
make haste to help me, O Lord.

Psalm 70:1

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE PSALMODY: PSALM 45:6-17

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;
daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor;
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear:
forget your people and your father's house,

and the King will desire your beauty.

Since He is your Lord, bow to Him.

The people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts,

the richest of the people.

All glorious is the princess in her chamber, with robes interwoven with gold.

**In many-colored robes she is led to the King,
with her virgin companions following behind her.**

*With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the King.*

*In place of your fathers shall be your sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth.*

*I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

TUNE: LSB 356—HYMN: THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

[Link to the music on YouTube](#)

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
- 2 “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

The Reading of God's Word

Response after each reading:

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

from the Old Testament: Isaiah 7:10–14

from the Letters: Hebrews 10:4–10

from the Holy Gospels: Luke 1:26–38

THE LENTEN RESPONSORY

Psalm 51:14; 59:1; 141:8

Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

The Sermon

THE SMALL CATECHISM: THE SECOND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED AND ITS MEANING

What is the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed?

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.

What does this mean?

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.

*Let my prayers be set forth before Thee as incense,
and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden:

For, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For He that is mighty hath done to me great things and holy is His name.

And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.

He hath showed strength with His arm.

He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seats and exalted them of low degree.

He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich He hath sent empty away.

He hath holpen His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy

as He spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE LITANY OF THE PASSION

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God the Father in heaven

Have mercy.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

Have mercy.

God the Holy Spirit,

Have mercy.

Jesus, Son of the living God,

Have mercy.

From all evil,

O Jesus, deliver us.

From sudden, unprepared, or evil death;

From the snares of the devil;

From anger, hatred or ill-will;

From everlasting death,

O Jesus, deliver us.

*By the mystery of Your incarnation; by Your most holy life and conversation;
By Your most bitter Passion and death; by Your agony and bloody sweat;
By Your thrice-repeated prayer; by Your bonds and stripes;
By Your sacred body, buffeted and smitten; by the spitting upon Your adorable face;
By the false judgment pronounced by Caiaphas; by Herod's disdain of You;
By the shameful stripping of Your garments; by Your painful crown of thorns;
By Your purple robe of mockery; by Your most unjust condemnation;
By Your bearing Your own cross; by Your footprints to the place of death;
By the tearing off of Your garments; by the cruel straining of Your sacred limbs;
By Your dread crucifixion; by the anguish You did suffer;
By Your prayers and tears; by the insults You endured;
By the shedding of Your most precious blood; by Your patience and humility;
By the love with which You loved us to the end:*

O Jesus, deliver us.

We poor sinners implore You to hear us:

O most loving Jesus.

*That being dead to sin, we may live unto righteousness;
That we may not glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ;
That we may take up our cross daily and follow You;
That Your blood may cleanse us from dead works to serve the living God;
That looking on Your example, we may follow Your steps;
That being partakers of Your sufferings, we may be also partakers of Your glory:*

We implore You to hear us, O Jesus.

To give comfort and relief to [_____] and to all who have asked for our prayers:

We implore You to hear us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

Have mercy.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

Have mercy.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

Grant us Your peace. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

O Lord, as we have known the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of the angel to the virgin Mary, so by the message of His cross and passion bring us to the glory of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

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. **Amen.**

TLH 45: THE BENEDICAMUS

[Psalm 103:1]

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

TLH 45: THE BENEDICTION

2 Corinthians 13:14

*The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all.*

Amen.

TUNE: LSB 385—HYMN: FROM EAST TO WEST

[Link to the music on YouTube \(same tune as LSB 358\)](#)

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| <p>1 From east to west, from shore to shore
Let ev'ry heart awake and sing
The holy child whom Mary bore,
The Christ, the everlasting king.</p> <p>2 Behold, the world's creator wears
The form and fashion of a slave;
Our very flesh our maker shares,
His fallen creatures all to save.</p> | <p>3 For this how wondrously He wrought!
A maiden, in her lowly place,
Became, in ways beyond all thought,
The chosen vessel of His grace.</p> <p>4 And while the angels in the sky
Sang praise above the silent field,
To shepherds poor the Lord Most High,
The one great Shepherd, was revealed.</p> |
|--|---|
- △ 5 All glory for this blessed morn
To God the Father ever be;
All praise to You, O Virgin-born,
And Holy Ghost eternally.**

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Services in Light of COVID-19

The midweek services scheduled for March 18 and 25 and April 1 will be recorded and posted to www.oursaviorlcms.com.

The proclamation of the Word will continue, so that we may live as Christians in these turbulent times and conduct ourselves in ways that confess Christ and glorify our Father.

Lenten Theme: The Second Table of God's Law

The theme for our Lenten Vespers services is the second table of God's law, the Fourth through Tenth Commandments (*study them at catechism.cph.org*). As God's law reflects your sin, He drives you to repentance and faith in your Lord Jesus Christ, who both kept the entire law on your behalf and suffered the punishment you justly deserve.

On Ash Wednesday, we heard how the Lord Jesus restores you to your Father in heaven by obeying His Father's will (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:1-2, 4-15, [sermon](#)).

Like the patriarch Joseph, our Lord Jesus was brought low and then raised up to preserve life (March 4: Exodus 20:13; Genesis 45:3-15, *no sermon manuscript or audio available*).

The marriage of Adam and Eve is a picture of the Lord as our faithful bridegroom who gave Himself for His bride, the Church (March 11: Exodus 20:14; Genesis 2:15-24, [sermon](#)).

Salvation came to Zacchaeus the tax collector through the Lord's generosity (March 18: Exodus 20:15; Luke 19:1-10, [sermon](#); [service](#)).

On March 25, nine months before Christmas, we celebrate the Annunciation of Our Lord, when Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:10-14; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38).

According to the flesh, Jesus was descended from David, whose honor and reputation were defended by Jonathan, even as He would later be denounced by false witnesses (April 1: Exodus 20:16; 1 Samuel 19:1-7).

On Maundy Thursday (April 9), we see how our Lord took the form of a servant, turned His heart toward us, and gave His true body and blood for our contentment (Exodus 12:1-14, 20:17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; John 13:1-17, 31b-35).

Finally, on Good Friday (April 10), the darkness and wrath threatened against the people of Israel at Mount Sinai falls upon Jesus in His crucifixion as He bears the full weight of our punishment (Exodus 20:18-21 and passion account).