



THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

December 16, 2020



"Adoration of the Shepherds" by Gerard van Honthorst, circa 1622, Public Domain

In Jesus' genealogy, we recognize Joseph, the head of Jesus' earthly family. Joseph was a just and caring man, not wanting to shame his fiancée Mary. He also was obedient, naming her son Jesus, just as the angel of the Lord had told him to do. Little else is told us of Joseph; the last mention is after the account of Jesus' getting "lost" in the temple when He was twelve years old.

While Holy Scripture seems to "forget" Joseph, he was not forgotten by God. The child Jesus, whom God entrusted to Joseph's care, is Joseph's Savior and the Savior of all peoples, both "known" and "unknown," whatever the case may be. We know and confess that God remembers all people, well-known or not, and He has forgiven and forgotten all our sins for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Christ Jesus, the Son of God.

Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357, sts. 1, 5, 7



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text and tune: Public Domain

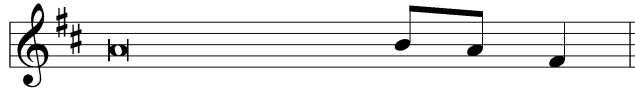
✠ VESPERS ✠

Stand

Opening Versicles

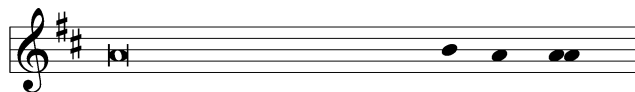


L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

Psalm 51:15



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.

Psalm 70:1



Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

✠ Psalmody ✠

Psalm

Psalm 25:4–10, 21–22; antiphon: v. 1

The pastor and congregation chant responsively. The antiphon is chanted by the pastor before and after the psalm.



(Antiphon) To You, | O LORD,*
I lift | up my soul.

⁴ Make me to know Your ways, | O LORD;*
teach me | Your paths.

⁵ **Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my sal- | vation;***
for You I wait all the | day long.

⁶ Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your | steadfast love,*
for they have been | from of old.

⁷ **Remember not the sins of my youth or my trans- | gressions;***
according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, | O LORD!

⁸ Good and upright | is the LORD;*
therefore He instructs sinners | in the way.

⁹ **He leads the humble in | what is right,***
and teaches the humble | His way.

¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and | faithfulness,*
for those who keep His covenant and His testi- | monies.

²¹ **May integrity and uprightness pre- | serve me,***
for I | wait for You.

²² Redeem Israel, | O God,*
out of all his | troubles.

**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 antiphon is repeated.

Sit



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text and tune: Public Domain

✠ Readings ✠

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31–34

P A reading from Jeremiah, chapter 31.

³¹“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:26–31

P A reading from First Corinthians, chapter one.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

P A reading from the Gospel of Saint Matthew, chapter one.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a Son. And he called His name JESUS.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory for Advent

Jeremiah 23:5a, 6



- L** 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a righ-teous Branch.
- 2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell se - cure - ly.
- 3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



C This is the name
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righ-teous-ness.

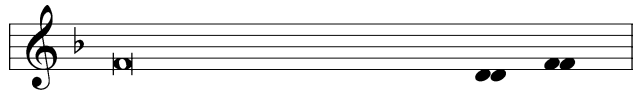
Sermon



“Saint Joseph and the Child” by André Reinoso, circa 1620-1630, Public Domain

✠ CANTICLE ✠

Stand



I Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Psalm 141:2

Magnificat

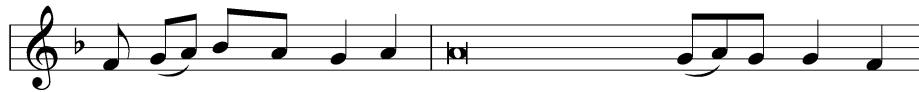
Luke 1:46-55



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



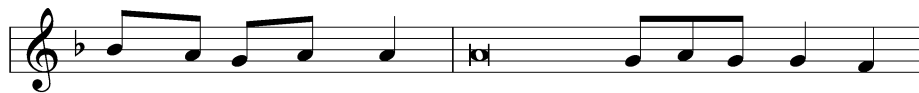
II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



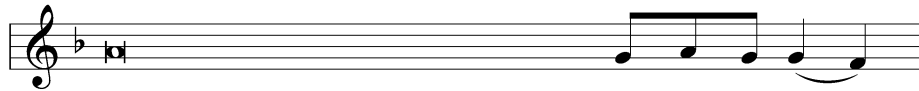
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



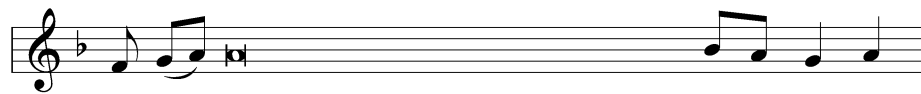
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



III Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.

✠ Prayer ✠

Kneel or Remain Standing

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



III Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13



Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal-low - ed be Thy name,



Thy king - dom come, Thy will be done on earth as



it is in heav - en; give us this day our dai - ly



bread; and for-give us our tres-pass-es as we for-give



those who tres - pass a - gainst us; and lead us not in -



to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For Thine is the king - dom and the pow'r and the glo -



ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Collects (Prayers)



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



G And let my cry come to You.

Psalm 102:1

Collect of the Week

P 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.



G A - men.

Collect for Newness of Life in Christ

P Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon ourselves 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 in the Last Day, when He shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



G A - men.

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.



G A - men.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



L Let us bless the Lord.



G Thanks be to God.

Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14



P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



G A - men.

† SOLI DEO GLORIA †
(TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY)