



## MIDWEEK ADVENT 1

Wednesday, December 3, 2025



## ***BIBLE SONGS OF CHRISTMAS***

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### **SERIES EXPLANATION**

People love Christmas music! It seems to be played earlier and earlier every year. There are many popular tunes, and some songs even have words that point us to the reason for the season, the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

Did you know that the Bible has songs of Christmas? They were sung to announce Christ's birth. We have only the words of those songs, not the music, but Christian composers through the ages have set those words to music. This year we look at the background and words of those songs to help us prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

Our worship follows this pattern.

Midweek One	<i>The Song of Mary</i>
Midweek Two	<i>The Song of Zechariah</i>
Midweek Three	<i>The Song of the Angels</i>

# 304 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

CW 304



1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied where  
 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, a  
 3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ  
 4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, lost



tame live with the wild, the lamb and li - on  
 branch from Da - vid's line, a Prince of Peace in  
 came to suf - fer loss, that by his death a  
 Par - a - dise re - store; lead past the an - gel's



side by side, led by a lit - tle child!  
 Beth - le - hem: the fruit of God's de - sign.  
 dy - ing world would ral - ly to the cross.  
 flam - ing sword—come, o - pen heav - en's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth

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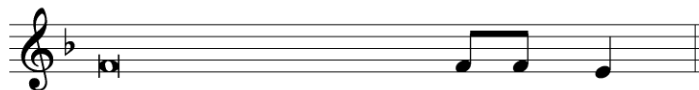
Tune: Public domain

*Please stand, if you are able*

## Opening Sentences



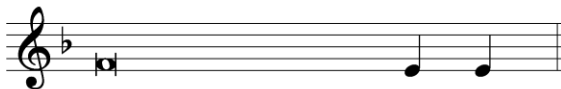
Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



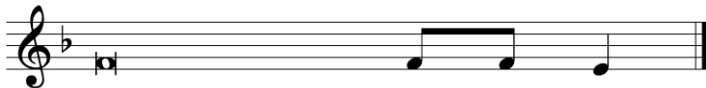
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,



**and the day is almost o - ver.**



Be our light and scat - ter the darkness,



**and hear our evening prayer and praise.**

Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727703

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with 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. We, your creatures, glorify you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## 141A Let My Prayer Rise before You

Psalm 141A

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O LORD, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.'

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.  
O LORD, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice  
when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Tune: David Schack

Tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727703

Tune: Public domain

Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

Praise the Lord.  
Praise, you servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.  
Let the name of the Lord be blessed, from now to eternity.  
From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

High above all the nations is the Lord.  
His glory towers above the heavens.  
Who is like the Lord our God?  
He is seated on high.  
He bends down to look at the heavens and at the earth.  
He raises the poor from the dust.  
He lifts the needy from the garbage pile to seat them with the nobles,  
with the nobles of his people.  
He is the one who settles the barren woman in her home  
as a joyful mother of children.  
Praise the Lord.

**Choir and Congregation**

**Choir sings vs. 1-3; Congregation joins on vs. 4**

**Arise, O Christian People**

*arr. by Henry B. Kihlken*

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today.  
Prepare to greet the Savior, who takes your sins away.  
To us by grace alone the truth and light were given;  
The promised Lord from heaven to all the world is shown,  
To all the world is shown.

Prepare the way before him, prepare for him the best;  
Cast out what would offend him, this great, this heavenly guest.  
Make straight, make plain the way; the lowly valleys raising,  
The heights of pride abasing, his path all even lay.

The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high;  
Beneath his feet in terror the haughty soul shall lie.  
The heart sincere and right, that heeds God's invitation  
And makes true preparation; It is the Lord's delight.

**Prepare my heart Lord Jesus; turn not from me aside,  
And help me to receive you this blessed Adventtide.  
From stall and manger low come now to dwell within me;  
I'll sing your praises gladly and forth your glory show.**

## **PRAYER**

Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please stand, if you are able*

## **Gospel Reading**

**Luke 1:39-56**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. <sup>40</sup> She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!

<sup>46</sup> Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

<sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring<sup>[a]</sup> forever.

<sup>56</sup> Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

*Please be seated*

## 574 The Tree of Life

CW 574

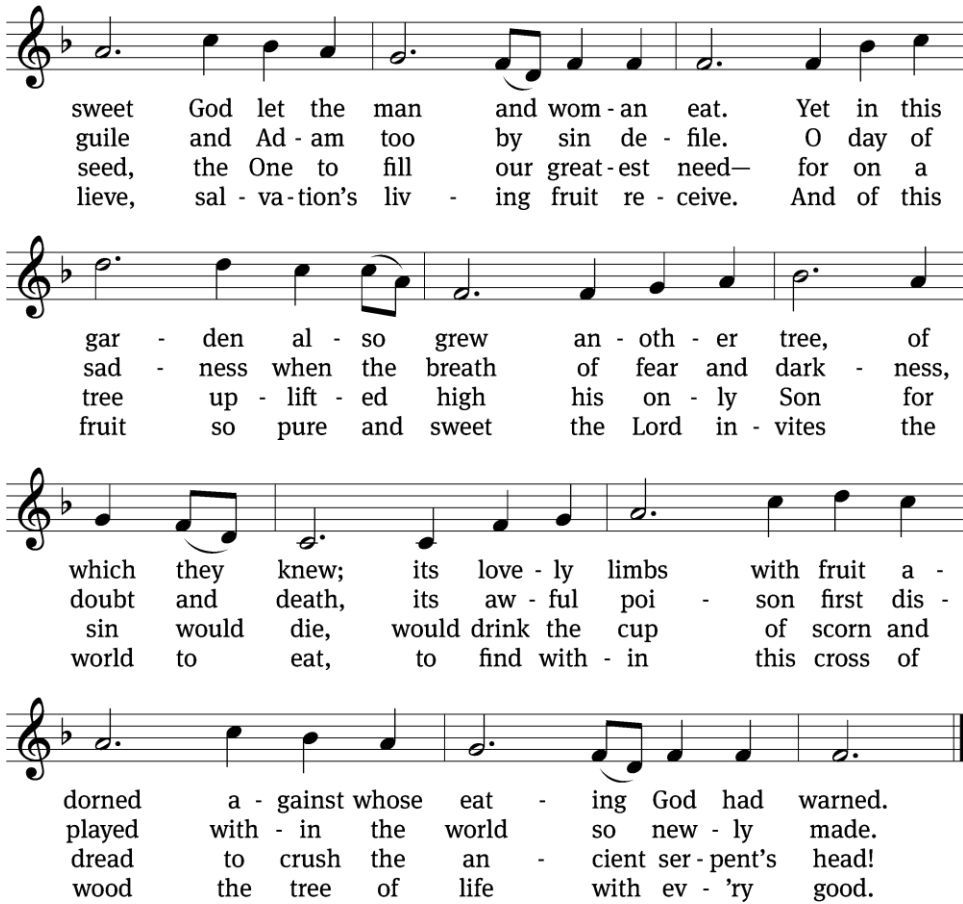


1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good in E - den's  
2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove was bro - ken  
3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, a plan of  
4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, and of its fruit so pure and  
as the ser - pent strove with tempt - ing voice Eve to be -  
res - cue by his grace, in send - ing One from wom - an's  
ter - nal in his name; for all who trust and will be -





sweet God let the man and wom-an eat. Yet in this  
guile and Ad-am too by sin de-file. O day of  
seed, the One to fill our great-est need- for on a  
lieve, sal-va-tion's liv-ing fruit re-ceive. And of this

gar-den al-so grew an-oth-er tree, of  
sad-ness when the breath of fear and dark-ness,  
tree up-lift-ed high his on-ly Son for  
fruit so pure and sweet the Lord in-vites the

which they knew; its love-ly limbs with fruit a -  
doubt and death, its aw-ful poi-son first dis -  
sin would die, would drink the cup of scorn and  
world to eat, to find with-in this cross of

dorned a - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.  
played with - in the world so new - ly made.  
dread to crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!  
wood the tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955

Tune: Bruce W. Becker, b. 1952

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Tune: © 1995 Bruce W. Becker. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 727703

## DEVOTION

*Please stand, if you are able*

## Song of Mary



C: My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-



joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor



on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions



will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great



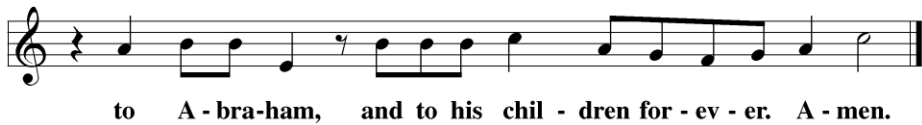
things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on



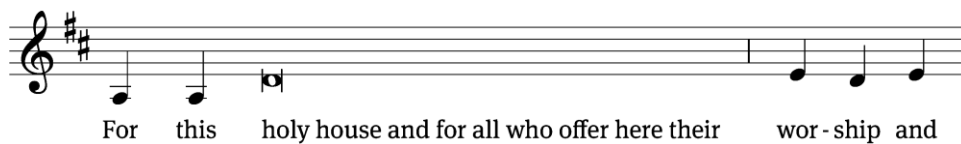
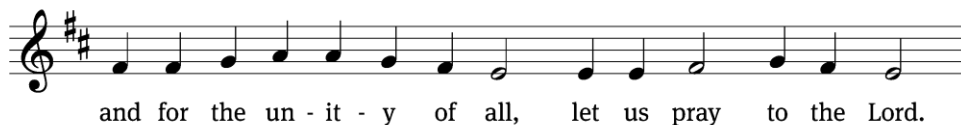
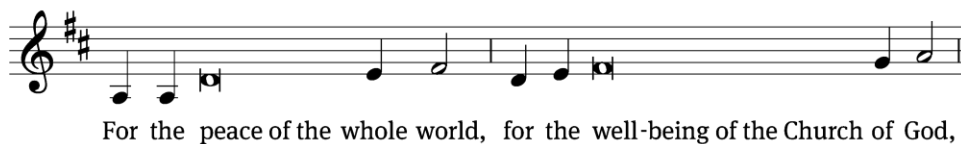
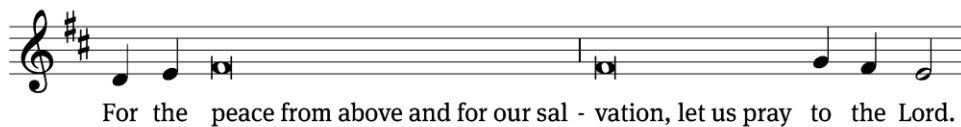
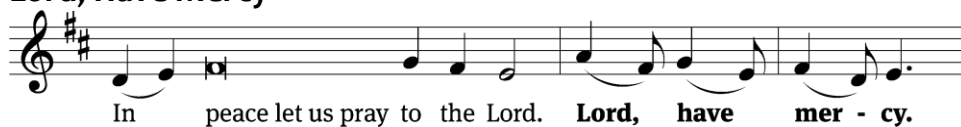
those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.

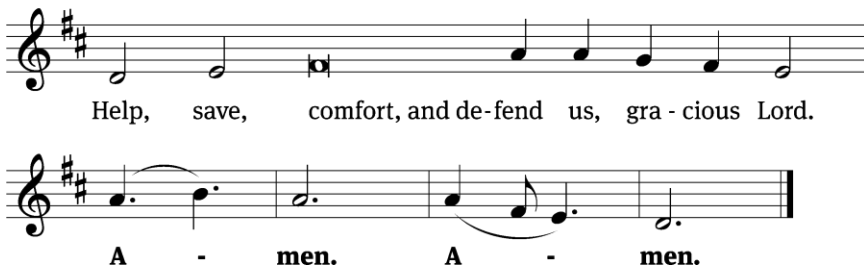


He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the



## Lord, Have Mercy





Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

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## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

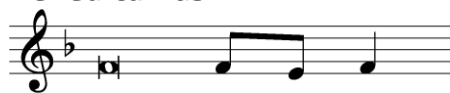
Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming, give us strength in our conflicts, and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Benedicamus



Let us praise the Lord.



Thanks be to God.

## Blessing



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



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



A - men.

*Please be seated*

# 335 To Shepherds as They Watched by Night

CW 335



1 To shep - herds as they watched by night ap - peared a  
 2 "At Beth - le - hem, in Da - vid's town, as Mi - cah  
 3 O then re - joice that through his Son God is with  
 4 What harm can sin and death then do? The true God



host of an - gels bright; "Be - hold the ten - der  
 did of old make known. It is the Christ, your  
 sin - ners now at one; made like your - selves of  
 now a - bides with you. Let hell and Sa - tan



babe," they said, "in yon - der low - ly man - ger laid,  
 Lord and King, who will to all sal - va - tion bring."  
 flesh and blood, your broth - er is th'e - ter - nal God.  
 storm and rave, Christ is your broth - er— you are safe.

- 5 Not one he will or can forsake;  
 his promise he will never break.  
 Let ev'ry scheme the tempter try,  
 you may his utmost pow'rs defy.
- 6 You shall and must at last prevail;  
 God's own you are, you cannot fail.  
 To God forever sing your praise  
 with joy and patience all your days.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.  
 Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Poinsettias** for this week were given to the glory of God by Richard and Lenora Lewis. Thank you!

**UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES—**

- Sunday Worship—Sundays, December 7, 14, 21, 28 9:00 a.m.
- Mid-week Advent Worship—Wednesdays, December 10, 17 at 7 p.m.
- Children’s Program—Sunday, December 21 at 5 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Worship—Wednesday, December 24 at 7 p.m.
- Christmas Day Worship—Thursday, December 25 at 10 a.m.

**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

<b>Officiant</b> .....	Pastor Isaac Pappenfuss
<b>Organist/Choir Director</b> .....	Sarah Hanke
<b>Accompanist</b> .....	Laua Sala
<b>Deacons</b> .....	Jeff Neuburger and Ron Roehm
<b>Altar Guild</b> .....	Sharon Boswell and Judy Lindemann
<b>Videographer</b> .....	Jeff Neuburger

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