

**THE ORDER OF VESPERS FOR
THE FIRST MIDWEEK OF ADVENT**

7:00 P.M.

30 December 2011

To Our Guests and Visitors

The members of Shepherd of the Springs Lutheran Church are glad to have you join with us as we gather around the proclaimed Word of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here it is that we find our source of forgiveness and life before God. It is our prayer that you also may rejoice in the precious message of the Gospel of our Lord: "But God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved!" [Ephesians 2.4-5]. **Please introduce yourself by name to our pastors as you leave today. Thank you!**

[Rise]

Confession of Sins and Holy Absolution

As we prepare for the Word of God let us confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness.

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

Advent Midweek Vespers

MEDITATIONS ON THE

SONGS OF SAINT LUKE

Wednesday, 30 November, 7:00 P.M.

Magnificat: The Song of Mary
Luke 1.46-55

Wednesday, 7 December, 7:00 P.M.

Gloria in Excelsis: The Song of the Angels
Luke 2.13-14

Wednesday, 14 December, 7:00 P.M.

Nunc Dimittis: The Song of Simeon
Luke 2.25-33

THE OFFICE OF VESPERS FOR ADVENT

Opening Hymn

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#338

The Opening Sentences

O Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will show forth Thy praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Make haste to help me, O Lord.

The Sentences for The First Week of Advent

Behold, your King cometh to you:

In Thee I trust, O my God.

Do not let me be put to shame:

Nor let my enemies triumph over me.

No one whose hope is in Thee will ever be put to shame:

But they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

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!

Behold, you King comes to you: In Thee I trust, O my God.

