

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

7:00 p.m.

7 December 2011

**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**

**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!**

**THE OFFICE OF VESPERS FOR ADVENT**

**Opening Hymn**

**"Lift Up Your Heads"**

**#341**

**The Opening Sentences**

O Lord, open my lips.

**And my mouth will show forth your praise.**

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

**Make haste to help me, O Lord.**

*The Sentences for The Second Week of Advent*

Daughter of Zion:

**Behold, your Salvation comes.**

The Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard:

**And you shall have gladness of heart.**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel:

**You who leads Joseph like a flock.**

**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!**

**Daughter of Zion: Behold, your Salvation comes.**

+ **The Word of God for The People of God** +

**The Invitatory for The Season of Advent**

Give glory to the coming King:

**Oh, come, let us worship Him!**

The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

All those who await His appearance pray:

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

The whole creation pleads:

**Come, Lord Jesus!**

In that day the mountains will drip new wine:

**And the hills will flow with milk! Alleluia!**

First Lesson                      Isaiah 53.4-9

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn                      O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide                      #355**

Second Lesson                      Romans 8.1-17

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn                      Prepare the Royal Highway                      #343**

Third Lesson                      Luke 2.8-14

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

**Office Hymn              Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord                      #352**

Sermon                      “Gloria in Excelsis”                      *Luke 2.13-14*  
Advent Sermon Series: Meditations on the Songs of St. Luke

[We rise] **Offertory              Create in Me a Clean Heart                      #956**  
The Offering

+ **The Canticle of Praise of God’s People** +

[We rise]                      “Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”                      #347

+ **The Prayers of The People of God** +

*The Kyrie*

Lord, have mercy upon us.    **Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord have mercy upon us.**

**The Our Father**

**Our Father who art in heaven; Hallowed by 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 Salutation, The Collects of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit!**

*For The Season of Advent*

Almighty God, heavenly Father, bestow on us Your grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us 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 will come again in His glorious Majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may then rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.                      **Amen!**

*For The Second Week of Advent*

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son that by His coming we may be given to serve You with cleansed minds; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.                      **Amen!**

*For Peace:*

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed, give to Your servants that peace that the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments, and also that we, being defended by You from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.                      **Amen!**

**Hymn for The Nation “God Bless our Native Land”                      #965**

**The Benediction**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.                      **Amen!**

**Final Hymn                      “Lord, Thee I Love”                      #708**