

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 ORDER OF VESPERS FOR THE THIRD MIDWEEK OF ADVENT

7:00 p.m.

14 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!**

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 Third Week of Advent

Rejoice in the Lord always:

And again I say, Rejoice!

Let your moderation be known unto all humankind:

For the Lord is at hand!

In everything, by prayer and supplications, with thanksgiving:

Let your requests be made known to God.

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 60.19-22

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Hymn “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” #350

Second Lesson Romans 5.1-11

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Hymn “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” #348

Third Lesson Luke 2.25-35

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

Office Hymn “Arise, O Christian People” #354

Sermon *“Nunc Dimittis”* Luke 2.29-32

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 Third Week of Advent

Lord, we beseech Thee, give ear to our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Thy gracious visitation; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Ghost, 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