



Advent Midweek 3  
Miraculous Births: John the Baptist  
December 15, 2021  
7:00 PM



Christ Lutheran Church  
3509 SW Burlingame Rd.  
Topeka, KS 66611  
785-266-6263  
www.christlms.org  
Rev. Ben Micheel, Pastor  
Amanda Adams, DCE  
Chris Francik, TLS Principal



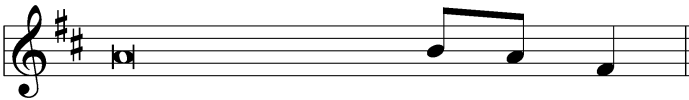
*As we gather, please take time to fill out the fellowship pad located near the center aisle in your pew. If you have any prayer requests, feel free to use a prayer request card from the pew rack in front of you, and place it in the offering plate after the sermon. (For those joining us online, please contact the church office.) We will include these requests in our prayers during worship, and share them with our prayer chain (if desired).*

## Welcome and Opening Prayer

*Stand*

### Advent Versicles

**P** O Lord, open my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



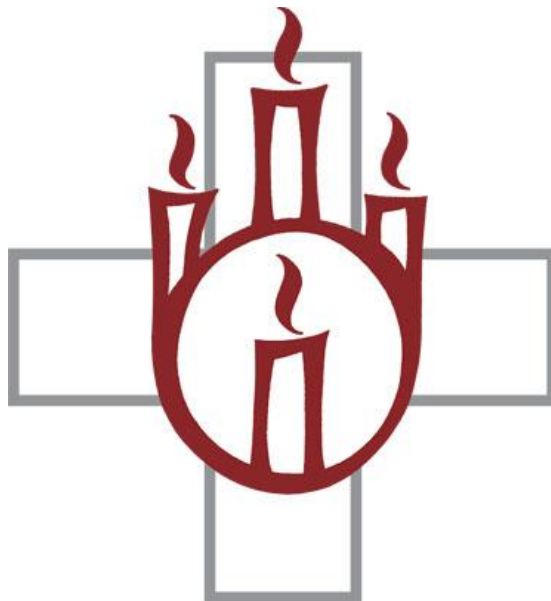
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

- P** Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD, O my soul!
- C** **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
- P** Put not your trust in princes,  
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
- C** **When his breath departs he returns to the earth;  
on that very day his plans perish.**
- P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
- C** **who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;**
- P** who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets the prisoners free;
- C** **the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who  
are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**
- P** The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the  
fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
- C** **The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

*Sit*



### 343 Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!  
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!  
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

*Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Tune: Public domain

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002199

### Reading

*Luke 1:5–25, 39–45, 57–80*

<sup>5</sup>In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

<sup>8</sup>Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, <sup>9</sup>according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. <sup>10</sup>And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. <sup>11</sup>And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup>And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup>And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup>for he will be

great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. <sup>16</sup>And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, <sup>17</sup>and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

<sup>18</sup>And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." <sup>19</sup>And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup>And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." <sup>21</sup>And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. <sup>22</sup>And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. <sup>23</sup>And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

<sup>24</sup>After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, <sup>25</sup>"Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup>And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, <sup>60</sup>but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." <sup>61</sup>And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." <sup>62</sup>And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup>And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. <sup>64</sup>And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. <sup>65</sup>And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, <sup>66</sup>and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

<sup>67</sup>And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

68“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
 for he has visited and redeemed his people  
 69and has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
 in the house of his servant David,  
 70as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,  
 71that we should be saved from our enemies  
 and from the hand of all who hate us;  
 72to show the mercy promised to our fathers  
 and to remember his holy covenant,  
 73the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us  
 74that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,  
 might serve him without fear,  
 75in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.  
 76And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,  
 77to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
 in the forgiveness of their sins,  
 78because of the tender mercy of our God,  
 whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high  
 79to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

80And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

## Responsory (Advent)

*Jeremiah 23:5a, 6 LSB 230*

**P** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.



This is the name  
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

**P** In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.



This is the name  
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

**P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.



This is the name  
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

### 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB 344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
way for God with - in, And let us all our  
and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry  
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.  
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

### Sermon

*Miraculous Births: John the Baptist*



## Offering

If you brought your gift, tithe, or offering with you today, you may place it in the offering plate as it passes. We also have multiple options for electronic giving. You can sign up for online giving at [pushpay.com/pay/christlcms](https://pushpay.com/pay/christlcms) for a one-time or recurring gift. Direct links with more information are available on the church website ([christlcms.org/giving](https://christlcms.org/giving)).



SCAN ME

For those joining us remotely, you may use the electronic giving methods listed above, or you may mail your offering to the church office (3509 SW Burlingame Rd, Topeka, KS 66611).

Stand

## Canticle

**P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,



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

## 934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

LSB 934



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it  
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -  
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters  
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -  
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like  
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -  
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.  
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.  
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.  
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.



## Kyrie

Mark 10:47 LSB 233



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

## Prayer

*At the end of each petition, the pastor will say, "Lord, in Your mercy," to which the congregation will respond, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

**P** ...through Jesus Christ, Your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

## Collects

**P** O Lord, hear my prayer.



**C** And let my cry come to You.

## Collect of the Day

**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.

**C** Amen.

## 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.



**C** A - men.

## Luther's Evening Prayer

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.  
Amen.

## Benedicamus

*Psalm 103:1 LSB 234*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

*2 Corinthians 13:14 LSB 234*

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



**C** A - men.

*Sit*



# 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the

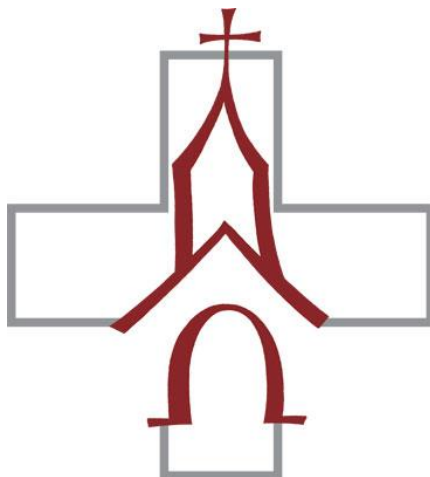


near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text and tune: Public domain



## Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by

Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

Join us!

Friday, Dec. 24

5:00 pm & 7:00 pm

5 pm service will also be live-streamed  
on Facebook and at [christlms.org](http://christlms.org)

Christ Lutheran Church  
3509 SW Burlingame Rd.  
Topeka, KS

