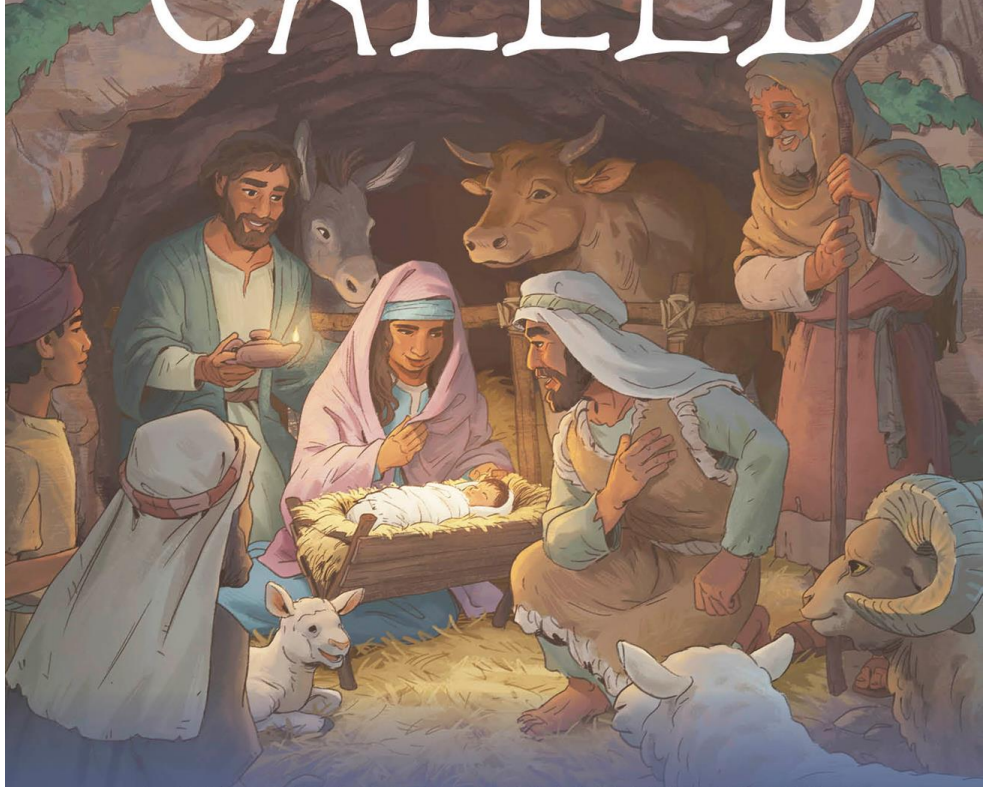


HIS NAME  
SHALL BE  
CALLED



3<sup>rd</sup> Midweek of Advent December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Saint Luke and Saint Peter Lutheran Churches

**Everlasting Father**

During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Son, who was given the name *Jesus*—a Hebrew name that means “God saves.” However, in addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles that describe something about His person or work. We will examine the four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—and will study how each of these titles describes something about *who* Jesus is and *what* He did for our salvation. Today we consider why Jesus is called “Father” even though He is the eternal Son of the Father. Our Everlasting Father rules over creation and His people like a loving father and His kingdom is eternal. What great love He has for us, and what comfort this gives us, especially as we face trials and suffering in this world.

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH**

Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'Coming.' Advent begins the church year starting four Sundays before Christmas. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation since the 6th century. Advent is a time for preparing for Christ's second coming, even as we remember and celebrate his first coming at Christmas. This is why the color of the season of Lent is used, purple or blue, the colors also of Lent, of forgiveness and repentance.

**First Candle** We speak of hope - because God keeps his promises to us.

**Second Candle** We work for peace - because Jesus is the 'Prince of Peace' and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

**Third Candle** We show love - because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

**Fourth Candle** We share joy - because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence the God

**Last Candle** (Christmas Eve/Day) Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

## Third Candle - The Candle of Love

**P** Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**P** This is the Third week of Advent and we will light the Candle of Love. Last week we lit the Candle of Peace. We light it and the Candle of Hope again as we remember Jesus, born in Bethlehem, our hope and our peace.

*(A person lights the Candles of Hope, and Peace)*

**P** Today we light the Third Candle of Advent, the Candle of Love. In their old age God gave to Zechariah and Elisabeth a son called John. John spoke to the people bravely in the desert denying his own comforts and prepared to die for what he believed. John taught that we should share what we have with others, treat each other kindly and show Gods love. He did this because he cared for people and wanted them to repent and find God's forgiveness.

*(A person lights the Third Candle, the Candle of Love here)*

Love is like a candle shining in a dark place. As we look at the light of this candle we celebrate the love we have in Christ.

**P** Let us pray:

**All: Lord God, Your witness John the Baptist grew up strong in spirit and prepared people for the coming of the Lord. He loved your people and baptized them in the River Jordan to wash away their sins. Help us to have the same love that we would be witnesses to him and spread the good news of your love. As Christmas draws closer day by day, help us to be ready to welcome him. Amen.**

Opening Sentences

*Psalm 51:15, 70:1*

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

**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

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

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

**C** 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.

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

## Of the Father's Love Begotten

LSB 384

- 1 Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.
  - 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed, When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.
  - 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.
  - 4 O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him; Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.
- △5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 9:1–2, 6–7*

**P** A reading from Isaiah, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*After the reading:*

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Colossians 1:15–20*

**P** A reading from Colossians, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

*After the reading:*

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

*John 14:1–11*

**P** A reading from John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

*After the reading:*

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Responsory

LSB 230

- P** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
- C** **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.
- C** **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.
- C** **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

## Once He Came in Blessing

LSB 333

- 1 Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;  
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;  
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.
- 2 Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us  
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,  
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.
- 3 Soon will come that hour When with mighty power  
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,  
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.
- 4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.  
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,  
Ever may confess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

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## Sermon

### Kyrie

LSB 233

- C** **Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

### Lord's Prayer

LSB 233

- 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.**

**P** O Lord, hear my prayer. **C** **And let my cry come to You.**

**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.**

**P** Show us the reality of eternity with You, O God. Help us look beyond our personal problems of this day to that everlasting joy in Your presence that awaits us by Your gracious invitation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

**P** Everlasting Father, we come to You, O Lord, who conquered sin and death as ruler of creation while also serving Your people as a caring Father. Grant us to know always Your eternal presence among us, and help us to amend our lives and pass on the joy of Your eternal forgiveness to our neighbors, friends, and family; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** **Amen.**

## Collect for Peace

### Benedicamus and Benediction

*LSB 234*

**P** Let us bless the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** The grace of our Lord  $\text{✠}$  Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C** **Amen.**

## Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

*LSB 352*

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- 2 What the fathers most desired, What the prophets' heart inspired,  
What they longed for many\_a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- 3 Abram's promised great reward, Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—  
Him of twofold race behold— Truly came, as long foretold.
- 4 As Your coming was in peace, Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me Which is Yours eternally.
- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.
- 6 Then when You will come again As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face, Freely ransomed by Your grace.

**P** Go in Peace and Serve the Lord. **C** **Thanks Be to God.**

**P** And remember, God really really really does love you!

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## Old Testament *Isaiah 9:1–2, 6–7*

<sup>1</sup> But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

## Epistle *Colossians 1:15–20*

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God

was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

## Holy Gospel *John 14:1–11*

<sup>1</sup> Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup> And you know the way to where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

<sup>8</sup> Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup> Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.