

Be Born In Us Today

November 30, 2022

Week 1: Be Born In Us Today Bringing Blessing

Order of Service

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. Genesis 12:2

OPENING HYMN: “*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*” LSB #341

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation he doth bring; therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee; his chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, his scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe he brings; therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is he who comes to set his people free.
To God the Spirit raise your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in and new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise for word and deed and grace!

INVOCATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(The first blue or purple candle is lit.)

P We light the first candle on the Advent wreath as we rejoice in the blessings that have come to us through the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. God told Abraham that through one of his descendants “all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3).

C Holy Child of Bethlehem, you were born among us to live and die and rise in fulfillment of God’s promise to bless all nations.

P The promised descendant of Abraham, Jesus Christ, is a blessing for people of all nations who trust in him for salvation. “So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith” (Galatians 3:7-8).

C Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Through faith in your name, Lord Jesus, we have the blessings of forgiveness and salvation!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C Lord God, we are blessed with your love and salvation, but we do not always live as your people. We turn away from your Word and ways to follow our own selfish desires. We listen to the temptations of the world around us. We do not share with others the blessings we have received. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

P God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the blessing for the nations, to atone for the sins of the world. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered” (Romans 4:7).

HYMN: “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*” *LSB #361*

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

HYMN: “Once He Came in Blessing” *LSB #333*

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.

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.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Genesis 12:1-8*

EPISTLE READING: *Romans 4:1-8*

GOSPEL READING: *Luke 1:39-56*

SERMON HYMN: “*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*” *LSB #356*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

“For know a blessèd mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE: *“Arise, O Christian People “ LSB #354*

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today;
Prepare to greet the Savior, who takes your sins away.
To us by grace alone the truth and light were given;
The promised Lord from heaven to all the world is shown.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; turn not from me aside,
And help me to receive you this blessed Adventtide.
From stall and manger low come now to dwell within me;
I’ll sing your praises gladly and forth your glory show.

APOSTLES’ CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYERS

P Lord and Savior, have mercy on those who are suffering through illness and loss. Watch over them and comfort them through the promises of your holy Word. Lead us as we seek ways to help and serve those in need so that we might share our blessings with them. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. As we have been blessed through your birth, help us to bless others in your name.

P Lord and Savior, you were born among us in fulfillment of the promise to Abraham, that one of his descendants would be a blessing to people of all nations. By your suffering and death, you atoned for the sins of the world. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. Like Abraham, we too are blessed to be a blessing to others. Guide and protect the pastors, teachers, missionaries and other workers who carry the good news of Jesus to every nation. Help us to support them with our gifts and prayers.

P Lord and Savior, Abraham believed your promise and his faith was counted as righteousness. Through faith in your name, we too are counted righteous. Through your suffering, death and resurrection, we have received the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. We pray that the Holy Spirit will work through our acts of love and our words of witness so that others will come to know and worship you as Lord.

P Holy Savior, Lord of all nations, hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

P "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

C For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name" (Luke 1:46-48).

P “The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” LSB #350*

Come, thou precious Ransom, come, only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to thee all portals.
Come, thy beauty let us see; anxiously we wait for thee.

Enter now my waiting heart, glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart, though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine when thou art my guest divine!

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let thy kingdom, scepter, crown, bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.