

# The Song of Zechariah – Midweek 2



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**Wednesday December 10, 2025**

**Preaching and Presiding: Rev. Dr. Paul Steinberg**

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*From eternity, Jesus has been God, holy and majestic. When we look tenderly at the holy infant, we are looking at the same God who once told the prophet Moses, "No one may see me and live." Yet, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds all saw their holy God and survived. How? God became human, hiding his glory within flesh, so that he could come to us without instilling fear or dread.*

*A famous theologian once said, "We are to think of the Lord's birth, where the Word became flesh, not as a past event which we recall, but as a present reality on which we gaze." It's not that Christ the Savior was born. It's that Christ the Savior is born.*

*Stand*

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
the light no darkness can overcome.**

**Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
and the day is almost over.**

**Be our light and scatter the darkness,  
and hear our evening prayer and praise.**

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## 7 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

CW 7 sts. 1-2



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Bride-groom near;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth, as he ap - proach - es, with al - le - lu - ias clear.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid-night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride-groom is at hand.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt.

Tune: Swedish

Text and tune: Public domain

Be seated

## Psalm Prayer

Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**<sup>1</sup>I have a message from God in my heart  
concerning the sinfulness of the wicked:  
There is no fear of God  
before their eyes.**

**<sup>2</sup>In their own eyes they flatter themselves  
too much to detect or hate their sin.**

**<sup>3</sup>The words of their mouths are wicked and deceitful;  
they fail to act wisely or do good.**

**<sup>4</sup>Even on their beds they plot evil;  
they commit themselves to a sinful course  
and do not reject what is wrong.**

**<sup>5</sup>Your love, LORD, reaches to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the skies.**

**<sup>6</sup>Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,  
your justice like the great deep.  
You, LORD, preserve both people and animals.**

**<sup>7</sup>How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!  
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.**

**<sup>8</sup>They feast on the abundance of your house;  
you give them drink from your river of delights.**

**<sup>9</sup>For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.**

**<sup>10</sup>Continue your love to those who know you,  
your righteousness to the upright in heart.**

**<sup>11</sup>May the foot of the proud not come against me,  
nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.**

**<sup>12</sup>See how the evildoers lie fallen—  
thrown down, not able to rise!**

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## 324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CW 324 sts. 1-3



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?

2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.

3 Re - joice, then, you sad-heart - ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.

Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.

who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,

Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace

De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand-ing at the door



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.

in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!

who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr.; tr. composite

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662, alt.

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## Sermon: Praise God for Claiming Naming Rights

<sup>57</sup>When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

<sup>59</sup>On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, <sup>60</sup>but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

<sup>61</sup>They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

<sup>62</sup>Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. <sup>63</sup>He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” <sup>64</sup>Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup>All the neighbors were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. <sup>66</sup>Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

<sup>67</sup>His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

<sup>68</sup>“Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

<sup>69</sup>He has raised up a horn of salvation for us  
in the house of his servant David

<sup>70</sup>(as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

<sup>71</sup>salvation from our enemies

and from the hand of all who hate us—

<sup>72</sup>to show mercy to our ancestors

and to remember his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup>the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,

and to enable us to serve him without fear  
75in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

76And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him,  
77to give his people the knowledge of salvation  
through the forgiveness of their sins,  
78because of the tender mercy of our God,  
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven  
79to shine on those living in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the path of peace."

## 954 Blessed Be the God of Israel

CW 2023 954

1 Blessed be the God of of Is - ra - el, who  
 2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the  
 3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord, you

comes to set us free and rais - es up new  
 cov - e - nant re - call, the oath once sworn to  
 will pre - pare the way, to tell God's peo - ple

hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
 A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all,  
 they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph - ets long de - clared that  
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and  
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine

with a might - y arm God would turn back our  
 of - fer lives of praise, in ho - li - ness and  
 forth and nev - er cease to drive a - way the

en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
 right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.  
 gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944

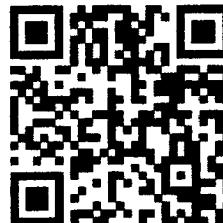
Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872-1958, alt.

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## **Love Offerings and Generous Donations**

**Stand**



**Donate to Siloah Lutheran**

### **Prayer of the Church in Advent**

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death.  
[Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

Let us praise the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Blessing

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

Be seated

### 324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CW 324 sts. 4-5



4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;  
5 He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,  
  
your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.  
a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those  
  
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,  
who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,  
  
his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.  
send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr.; tr. composite

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662, alt.

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**Midweek Advent Worship in Hoffmann Hall:**

**Wednesday December 17**

**5:30 Meal**

**6:30 Worship**

**School Christmas Program w/ Party in Hoffmann Hall**

**Afterwards:**

**Sunday December 21 10 AM**

**His Way Band Christmas Community Concert @**

**Siloah:**

**Sunday December 21 6 PM**

**Christmas Eve: 4 PM**

**Christmas Day: 10 AM**

