

This Is My Son



ADVENT MIDWEEK - DECEMBER 7TH, 2022

WELCOME

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Please sign the guest register in the entry
as you leave the church today.

TODAY'S SERVICE

December 7th, 2022

Speaker:

Pastor Mark Tiefel

Pianist:

Lila Brown

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PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 25

To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. ² O my God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me. ³ Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; Let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause. ⁴ Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. ⁵ Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You *are* the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day. ⁶ Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, For they *are* from of old. ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD. ⁸ Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way. ⁹ The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way. ¹⁰ All the paths of the LORD *are* mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. ¹¹ For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great. ¹² Who is the man that fears the LORD? Him shall He teach in the way He chooses. ¹³ He himself shall dwell in prosperity, And his descendants shall inherit the earth. ¹⁴ The secret of the LORD *is* with those who fear Him, And He will show them His covenant. ¹⁵ My eyes *are* ever toward the LORD, For He shall pluck my feet out of the net. ¹⁶ Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For I *am* desolate and afflicted. ¹⁷ The troubles of my heart have enlarged; Bring me out of my distresses! ¹⁸ Look on my affliction and my pain, And forgive all my sins. ¹⁹ Consider my enemies, for they are many; And they hate me with cruel hatred. ²⁰ Keep my soul, and deliver me; Let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in You. ²¹ Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, For I wait for You. ²² Redeem Israel, O God, Out of all their troubles!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OPENING PRAYER

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. Amen.

#56 "Jesus Came, The Heavens Adoring"

by Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903

1. Jesus came, the heavens adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came for man's redemption,

Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.

2. Jesus comes again in mercy
When our hearts are bowed with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.

3. Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiven;
Jesus comes in sounds of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heaven.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Now the gate of death is riven.

INVOCATION

p In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.**

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

MAGNIFICAT

P My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices
in God, my Savior;

C **for He has regarded the lowliness of His hand-
maiden.**

P For behold, from this day all generations will call
me blessed.

C **For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
and holy is His name;**

P and His mercy is on those who fear Him from gen-
eration to generation.

C **He has shown strength with His arm; He has scat-
tered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**

- P He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has exalted the lowly.
- C **He has filled the hungry with good things, and the
rich He has sent empty away.**
- P He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of
His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham
and to his seed forever.
- 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray . . . Almighty God, You have granted
precious and great promises to all who believe, all
things that pertain to life and godliness. Focus our
faith on the knowledge of Him who has called us to
His own glory that we may be Your true sons and
daughters in Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus
Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Galatians 4:21–5:1

^{4:21}Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? ²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. ²³But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. ²⁴Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. ²⁵Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. ²⁶But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. ²⁷For it is written,

“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!

For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband.”

²⁸Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. ²⁹But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. ³⁰But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” ³¹So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

⁵¹For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Luke 3:1–9

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and

Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make His paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up

children for Abraham. 9Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

#645 "Behold, a Branch is Growing"

by Unknown, c. 1500

i. Behold a branch is growing
As of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sung, foreknowing;
It springs from Jesse's race
And bears one little Flower
In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.

2. Isaiah hath foretold It
In words of promise sure,
And Mary' s arms enfold It,
A virgin meek and pure.
Through God's eternal will
This Child to her is given
At midnight calm and still.

3. The shepherds heard the story,
Proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of Glory,
Was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped
And in the manger found him,
As angel heralds said.

4. This Flower, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.

True Man, yet very God;
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load.

5. o Savior, Child of Mary,
Who felt our human woe;
Savior, King of Glory.
Who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, we pray.
To the bright courts of heaven
And to the endless day.

SERMON

SERMON TEXT

Genesis 16:1-6

¹Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar.

²And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram

listened to the voice of Sarai. ³So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. ⁴And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. ⁵And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!" ⁶But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

⁷The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. ⁸And He said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." ⁹The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." ¹⁰The angel of the LORD also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." ¹¹And the angel of the LORD said to her,

“Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son.
You shall call his name Ishmael,
because the LORD has listened to your affliction.
¹²He shall be a wild donkey of a man,
his hand against everyone
and everyone’s hand against him,
and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.”

¹³So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, “You are a God of seeing,” for she said, “Truly here I have seen Him who looks after me.” ¹⁴Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

¹⁵And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael.
¹⁶Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

THIS IS MY SON: ISHMAEL

#705 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus!

Author: Charles Wesley

1 Come, O long-expected Jesus,
born to set Your people free;
from our sins and fears release us
By Your death on Calvary.

2 Born Your people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now Your gracious kingdom bring.

OFFERING

3 By Your own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by Your all-sufficient merit
raise us to Your glorious throne.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me today, and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins, wherever I have done wrong, and graciously protect me tonight. Into Your hands I entrust my body and soul and everything else. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the devil may have no power over me. Amen

THE BENEDICTION

p The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen

#420 "My Jesus, As Thou Wilt"

by Benjamin Schmolck, 1672-1737

1. My Jesus, as Thou wilt;
Oh, may Thy will be mine!
Into Thy hand of love
I would my all resign.
Through sorrow or through joy
Conduct me as Thine own
And help me still to say,
My Lord, Thy will be done.

4. My Jesus, as Thou wilt.
When death itself draws nigh,
Unto Thy wounded side
For refuge I would fly
And, clinging to Thee, go
Where Thou before hast gone.
My times are in Thy hand:
My Lord, Thy will be done.

5. My Jesus, as Thou wilt.
All shall be well for me;
Each changing future scene
I gladly trust with Thee.
Thus to my home above
I travel calmly on
And sing in life or death,
My Lord, Thy will be done.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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