

ADVENT

Our Dear CHRIST Enters In

WEEK 1:

Family
Tree



WEEK 2:

Home



WEEK 3:

Baby
Names



WEEK 4:

Company
Comes



Advent 2: December 10th, 2025

Our Dear Christ Enters In...when Home Hurts

Theme Verse

Luke 1:25

Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.

Invocation

P We worship in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB 344

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
Make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand
And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

- △ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P** Beloved in the Lord, as we draw closer to Christmas, may this wreath remind us that Jesus came to conquer the darkness of our sin and lead us into the light of his glorious kingdom, as the prophet Isaiah declares,
G **“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.”**

(Two purple candles are lit on the Advent wreath.)

- P** Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, the true Light who comes into the world to enlighten all peoples, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for your coming. Enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love that we may reflect your love to all—especially to those who are still walking in spiritual darkness around us; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
G **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** O Lord, the great and awesome God,
G **who keeps his covenant of love with all those who love him and keep his commandments,**
- P** we have sinned and done wrong.
G **We have been wicked and rebelled;**
- P** we have turned away from your commandments and rules.
G **We have not listened to your Word.**

- P** Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame
G **because we have sinned against you.**

- P** We have not sought your favor by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth.
G **O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath.**

- P** You, O Lord, are merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against you.
G **O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! We do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy.**

(Silence for personal confession.)

- P** “‘Comfort, comfort my people,’ says your God. ‘Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her: that her iniquity is pardoned’” (Isaiah 40:1-2). Through the perfect life, death and resurrection of the Christ Child, God has completely removed your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
G **Amen.**

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB 347

- 1 “Comfort, comfort ye My people,
Speak ye peace,” thus saith our God;
“Comfort those who sit in darkness,
Mourning ‘neath their sorrows’ load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover
And her warfare now is over.”

- 2 Yea, her sins our God will pardon,
Blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved His anger
He no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many_a day,
Now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness
Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 Hark, the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling sinners to repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
O that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet Him
And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 Make ye straight what long was crooked;
Make the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That His Word is never broken.

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

- P** O God, even in this exciting Advent season, we are reminded that our homes are sometimes visited by hurt in this broken world. Please be present with those homes that are experiencing troubled times and circumstances. Fill them with complete trust in you and the strength to endure hardship. Be their source of courage, and give them confidence in knowing that you came to earth as a baby in Bethlehem to comfort and save. Amen.

Reading

Isaiah 53:1–5

- ¹Who has believed what they heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
²For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
³He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
⁴Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.
⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his stripes we are healed.

Reading

Romans 8:35–39

³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reading

Luke 1:5–25

Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

⁵In 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. ⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³But 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. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for 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. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and 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.”

¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” ¹⁹And 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. ²⁰And 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.” ²¹And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²²And 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. ²³And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

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

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon - Our Dear Christ Enters in...when Home Hurts

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.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Apostles' Creed

**☞ 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 of the Church

℟ Lord Jesus, you entered in to a world broken by sin. Thank you for coming to heal us from the hurt caused by sin, and help us to live as your forgiven and forgiving people in our dwellings. May our family be united in our care for one another, even though we all have sinned. O Jesus Christ, who brings healing,

☞ bless all homes with your grace and love.

℟ Lord Jesus, be with all those who are hurting in some way physically, emotionally or spiritually. May our homes be places of comfort and strength for them, and may our hearts go out to them as your heart goes out to us whenever we are in distress. O Jesus Christ, who brings healing,

☞ bless all homes with your grace and love.

℟ Lord Jesus, be with doctors and nurses, therapists and psychiatrists, pastors and teachers and parents who care for others. Let them be a source of protection for people in dangerous situations. Allow them to give encouragement and support in a way that lifts the spirits of the ones in need. Give them the right words to say and move them to do as you would do for them. O Jesus Christ, who brings healing,

☞ bless all homes with your grace and love.

℟ Lord Jesus, come among those families who are struggling in some way. Unite them with your presence. Be a beacon of hope to them in this dark time in their lives. Open the path to resolution and restoration. O Jesus Christ, who brings healing,

☞ bless all homes with your grace and love.

P Lord Jesus, give us hearts like that of children that find joy in the small things and that are excited about the season even when things do not go exactly as planned. Fill us with gratitude toward you and one another for everything that is provided to make this Christmas special this year, despite any rough patches. O Jesus Christ, who brings healing,

G **bless all homes with your grace and love.**

P Lord Jesus, help us to trade all our sorrows for joy in you and all you do as we gather together as families in our homes. Rid our speech of complaints and angry words. Make givers glad, and make receivers of gifts truly appreciative of the meaning behind the wrappings and the bows. For you are the Gift divine this Christmas, and all our days are happy because you were born among us. O Jesus Christ, who brings healing,

G **bless all homes with your grace and love.**

P Lord Jesus, for these and all other things we ask, we give you thanks, trusting in your mercy to make your dwelling place in every dwelling place where your spirit rests. Amen,

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

G **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.**

Benediction

2 Thessalonians 3:16

P Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

Amen.

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name