

ADVENT

Our Dear CHRIST Enters In

WEEK 1:

Family
Tree



WEEK 2:

Home



WEEK 3:

Baby
Names



WEEK 4:

Company
Comes



Advent 3: December 17th, 2025

Our Dear Christ Enters In...Baby Names

Theme Verse

Luke 1:31

You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343



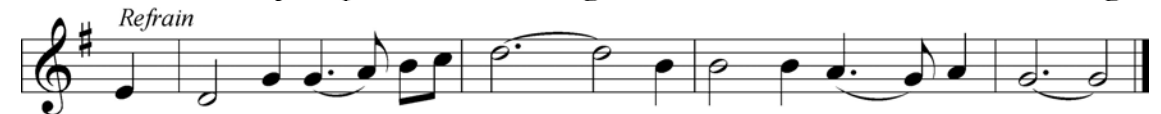
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

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,
- C** **“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, a light has shined.”**

(Two purple candles and one pink candle 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Seek the Lord while he may be found;
- C** **call upon him while he is near;**
- P** let the wicked forsake his way,
- C** **and the unrighteous man his thoughts;**
- P** let him return to the Lord,
- C** **that he may have compassion on him,**
- P** and to our God,
- C** **for he will abundantly pardon.**

(Silently reflect on these words and our need for his forgiveness.)

- P** Heavenly Father,
- C** **we come before you today with nothing to hide. You’ve heard everything we’ve said and seen everything we’ve done. You even probe our thoughts. You know that every day our lives are filled with disobedience, poorly chosen words and selfish ends. Forgive us for the sake of your Son, Jesus, who lived the perfect life that we could never live and sacrificed himself in our place. Amen.**
- 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). In his tender mercy, God has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, upon this your confession, I announce the grace of God to you. In his stead and by his command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

LSB 336 sts. 1–2, 4

1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,

Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;

Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

Swell the tri - umph of His train:
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Claim the king - dom as Thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Prayer of the Day

P Dear Lord, when you were born into this world, Mary and Joseph gave you the name that was given to them by the angel—the name “Jesus.” We are truly blessed this day to be able to call you by name in our prayers, in our worship and in our speaking of your salvation to those around us in our homes and in this church. Remind us every day that your name means “He saves,” and help us to remember that you have called each of us by name to follow you. Amen.

Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

The Sign of Immanuel

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

Reading

Acts 4:5–12

⁵On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?” ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. ¹¹This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. ¹²And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Reading

Luke 1:26–38

Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”


³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

LSB 524 sts. 1–2, 4–6



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds In
2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole And
4 O Je - sus, shep - herd, guard - ian, friend, My
5 How weak the ef - fort of my heart, How
6 Till then I would Thy love pro - claim With



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
calms the heart's un - rest; 'Tis man - na to the
Proph - et, Priest, and King, My Lord, my life, my
cold my warm - est thought! But when I see Thee
ev - 'ry fleet - ing breath; And may the mu - sic



heals our wounds, And drives a - way our fear.
hun - gry soul, And to the wea - ry, rest.
way, my soul, Ac - cept the praise I bring.
as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.
of Thy name Re - fresh my soul in death!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.
Tune: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon - Our Dear Christ Enters in...Baby Names

What a Friend We Have in Jesus LSB 770



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor-rows share?
Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness—Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol-ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86
Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918
Text and tune: 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

- P** Dear Jesus, you were given your name because you came to earth to save us from our sin. Let us never forgot that this Christmas. Let us honor and respect your name in how we use your name in day-to-day speech, and let us put your name at the center of our celebrations of your birth on Christmas. You truly are the reason for the season and the guide for our entire lives. May we share the story of your salvation with others and may words of forgiveness be always on the tips of our tongues. Jesus, name above all names,

C **look with favor upon us.**

P Dear Jesus, we come to this church today to worship and praise your name. Let your name be glorified in the words spoken and the songs sung. May we enjoy our time together in your name in this place, and may we spur others to join us here to multiply our voices in declaration of your goodness to us. Jesus, name above all names,

C **look with favor upon us.**
- P** Dear Jesus, thank you for the lives of Mary and Joseph, who listened to the angel and gave you your name as the angel had told them. Be with all expectant parents and parents of newborns. Give them courage, patience and strength in their role. Help them to remember their children are blessed and created by God and that God has a purpose for them, just as he had a purpose for you. Jesus, name above all names,

C **look with favor upon us.**
- P** Dear Jesus, help us to remember that God the Father has inscribed each one of us in the palm of his hand, and he has written each of our names in the Book of Life. So we are sons and daughters of our God and brothers and sisters with you in your family. Let us rejoice that we are at home with you and you call us by name to follow you each and every day. Jesus, name above all names,

C **look with favor upon us.**

- P** Lord Jesus, bless those who are recently baptized in your name and are made a child of God through water and the Word. Help us always to remember our own baptisms and by faith receive the washing of regeneration by the Holy Spirit. Let our lives be made clean each day to live a new life in and through you. Jesus, name above all names,

C **look with favor upon us.**
- P** Dear Jesus, we often search through the presents under the tree to find the ones with our name written on the tag. Help us to see and understand that each of the gifts that are given to each of those written on the name tags is a reminder of the Greatest Gift of All: Jesus. And this Gift wrapped in swaddling clothes is given to each of us. Jesus, name above all names,

C **look with favor upon us.**
- 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,

Lord’s Prayer

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

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.

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.

G **Amen.**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven
Text and tune: Public domain

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