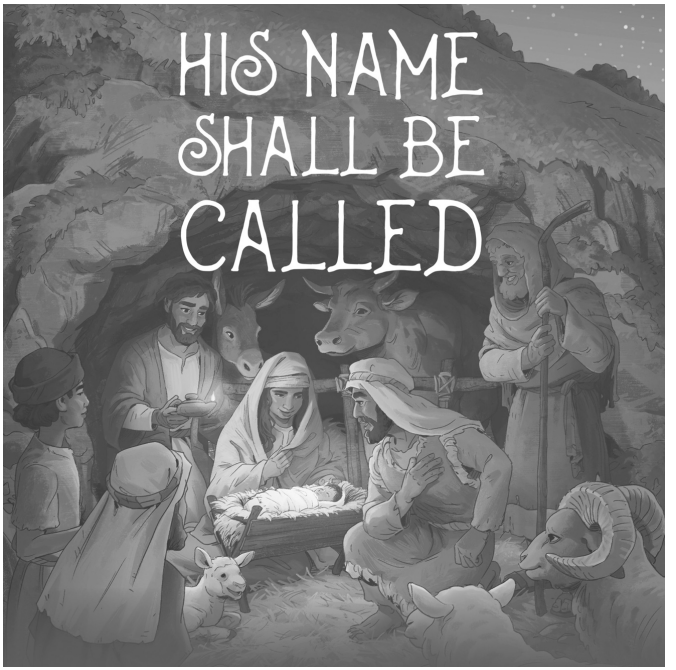
PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

"A Disciple Making Community"
"KNOW, GROW, and GO"

West Salem, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Midweek Advent Service
December 18, 2024



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Theme

EVERLASTING FATHER

During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Son, who was given the name *Jesus*—a Hebrew name that means "God saves." However, in addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles that describe something about His person or work. We will examine the four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—and will study how each of these titles describes something about *who* Jesus is and *what* He did for our salvation.

Today we consider why Jesus is called "Father" even though He is the eternal Son of the Father. Our Everlasting Father rules over creation and His people like a loving father and His kingdom is eternal. What great love He has for us, and what comfort this gives us, especially as we face trials and suffering in this world.

Evening Prayer

Service of Light	(LSB 243)
Phos Hilaron – Hymn of Light	(LSB 244)
Thanksgiving For Light	(LSB 245)
Psalm 141	(LSB 245-246)
Prayer	(LSB 247)

PSALM *Psalm 2; antiphon: v. 7*

I will tell of | the decree:*
The LORD said to Me, "You are My Son;
today I have be- | gotten You.
Why do the | nations rage*
and the peoples | plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel to- | gether,*
against the LORD and against His anointed, | saying,
"Let us burst Their | bonds apart*
and cast away Their | cords from us."
He who sits in the | heavens laughs;*
the Lord holds them in de- | rision.
Then He will speak to them | in His wrath,*
and terrify them in His fury, | saying,
"As for Me, I have | set My King*
on Zion, My | holy hill."
I will tell of | the decree:*
The LORD said to Me, "You are My Son;
today I have be- | gotten You.
Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your | heritage,*
and the ends of the earth Your pos- | session.
You shall break them with a | rod of iron*
and dash them in pieces like a potter's | vessel."
Now therefore, O | kings, be wise;*
be warned, O rulers | of the earth.
Serve the | LORD with fear,*
and rejoice with | trembling.
Kiss the Son,
lest He be angry, and you perish in the way,
for His wrath is quickly | kindled.*
Blessèd are all who take ref- | uge in Him.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
I will tell of | the decree:*
The LORD said to Me, "You are My Son;
today I have be- | gotten You.

Office Hymn **The People That in Darkness Sat (LSB 412)**

Reading: Isaiah 9:1–2, 6–7
℗ A reading from Isaiah, chapter 9.

1 But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he
brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time
he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the
nations.
2 The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.
6For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

℗ O Lord, have mercy on us.
℃ Thanks be to God.

Reading: Colossians 1:15–20

℗ A reading from Colossians, chapter 1.

15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16For by him
all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or
dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.
17And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18And he is the head of
the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything
he might be preeminent. 19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20and
through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making
peace by the blood of his cross.

℗ O Lord, have mercy on us.

℄ Thanks be to God.

Reading: John 14:1–11

℗ A reading from John, chapter 14.

1"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2In my
Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to
prepare a place for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and
will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. 4And you know the way to
where I am going." 5Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going.
How can we know the way?" 6Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the
life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7If you had known me, you would
have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

8Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9Jesus said
to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever
has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10Do you not
believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do
not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.
11Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of
the works themselves.

℗ O Lord, have mercy on us.

℄ Thanks be to God.

Final Reading Response *Hebrews 1:1–2a*

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

Responsory for Advent

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

Advent Catechesis *Luther's Small Catechism, The Second Article – Part 3*

P [Jesus Christ] 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.

C **That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

Sermon Hymn **Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come (LSB 350)**

Sermon **"Everlasting Father"**

Magnificat **(LSB 248)**

Offering

Prayer – Litany **(LSB 249-251)**

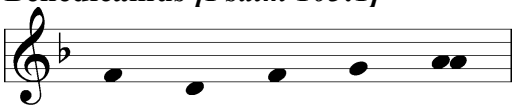
Collect for Peace **(LSB 251)**

Lord's Prayer **(LSB 251)**

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.

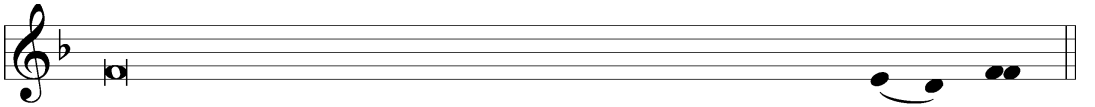
Benedicamus ***[Psalm 103:1]***



L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction



P The almighty and merciful Lord,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and pre - serve you.

C **A - men.**

Closing Hymn **Now the Light Has Gone Away (LSB 887)**