

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH
PASTOR KIRK PETERS
MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2
VESPERS

THE LORD SETS UP HIS TENT AMONG US

We often imagine that God's presence is made known through our feelings, but God has a history of showing His presence in more concrete ways. Throughout Scripture, He attaches Himself to places like Sinai or the tabernacle or the temple or the flesh and blood of His only-begotten Son. Today, we recall how God manifested His presence to His people in the mystery of the cloud and thereby assured them that He was with them and would fulfill His promise never to abandon them. Advent reminds us that at many times and in many ways, God spoke to His people of old, but now, He has spoken through His Son. In Christ, God tabernacles with us and continues to deliver to us the fruits of His saving work on the cross.

O Great I Am, Almighty Word

David Rogner

O GREAT I AM
Jacob B. Weber



1 O great I AM, al - might - y Word, Whose sav - ing
2 Ap - pear - ing in a bush of flame, You called on
3 You dwelt a - midst the wan - d'ring band And led them
4 You chose the weak and gave them might To con - quer
5 O Word In - car - nate, Christ of God, Par - tak - er



deeds were seen and heard A - mong Your peo - ple
Mo - ses to pro - claim De - liv'r - ance from cap -
to the Prom - ised Land; Your pres - ence hov - ered,
in the mor - tal fight, Then took on flesh to
of our flesh and blood, Be in our midst and



Is - ra - el, Come now to us, and ev - er dwell.
tiv - i - ty And lead Your peo - ple through the sea.
as a cloud, Your glo - ry filled the tent of God.
draw our breath, Meek child, yet vic - tor o - ver death.
al - ways dwell As Sav - ior, Lord, Im - man - u - el.

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Stand

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
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.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

+ PSALMODY +

PSALM

Psalm 105:1–11, 39–42

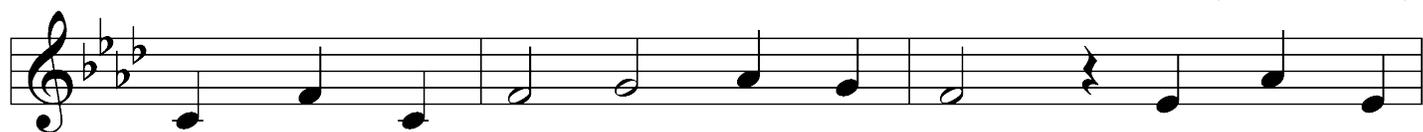
- C** He is the LORD our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.
He remembers His covenant forever,
the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.
L Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name;
make known His deeds among the peoples!
C Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;
tell of all His wondrous works!
L Glory in His holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
C Seek the LORD and His strength;
seek His presence continually!
L Remember the wondrous works that He has done,
His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,
C O offspring of Abraham, His servant,
children of Jacob, His chosen ones!
L He is the LORD our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.

- C** He remembers His covenant forever,
the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations,
- L** the covenant that He made with Abraham,
His sworn promise to Isaac,
- C** which He confirmed to Jacob as a statute,
to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying,
- L** “To you I will give the land of Canaan
as your portion for an inheritance.”
- C** He spread a cloud for a covering,
and fire to give light by night.
- L** They asked, and He brought quail,
and gave them bread from heaven in abundance.
- C** He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
it flowed through the desert like a river.
- L** For He remembered His holy promise,
and Abraham, His servant.
- 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.

**He is the LORD our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.
He remembers His covenant forever,
the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.**

Sit

OFFICE HYMN "O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth" (LSB 834)



1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth, Thy liv - ing
 2 Our fa - tal will to e - qual Thee, Our reb - el
 3 Thou cam - est to our hall of death, O Christ, to
 Δ 4 O Spir - it, who didst once re - store Thy Church that



fin - ger nev - er wrote That life should be an aim -
 will wrought death and night. We seized and used in pride -
 breathe our poi - soned air, To drink for us the dark
 it might be a - gain The bring - er of good news



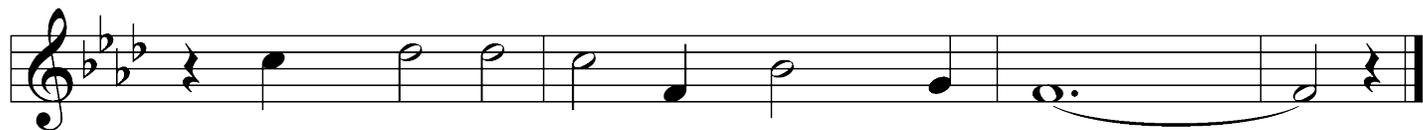
less mote, A death - ward drift from fu - tile birth.
 ful spite Thy won - drous gift of lib - er - ty.
 de - spair That stran - gled our re - luc - tant breath.
 to men, Breathe on Thy clo - ven Church once more,



Thy Word meant life tri - um - phant hurled In splen - dor through
 We housed us in this house of doom, Where death had roy -
 How beau - ti - ful the feet that trod The road that leads
 That in these gray and lat - ter days There may be those



Thy bro - ken world. Since light a - woke and life be - gan,
 al scope and room, Un - til Thy ser - vant, Prince of Peace,
 us back to God! How beau - ti - ful the feet that ran
 whose life is praise, Each life a high dox - ol - o - gy



Thou hast de - sired Thy life for man.
 Breached all its walls for our re - lease.
 To bring the great good news to man!
 To Fa - ther, Son, and un - to Thee.

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+ READINGS +

FIRST READING

Exodus 40:17–21, 34–38

L A reading from Exodus, the fortieth chapter.

¹⁷In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. ¹⁸Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. ¹⁹And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. ²⁰He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the mercy seat above on the ark. ²¹And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

³⁴Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. ³⁷But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. ³⁸For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

John 1:14–18

L A reading from John, the first chapter.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about Him, and cried out, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.’”) ¹⁶And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, He has made Him known.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

♫RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

LSB, p. 230

L 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.**

L 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.**

L 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.**

SERMON

C 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.

L What does this mean?

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

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.

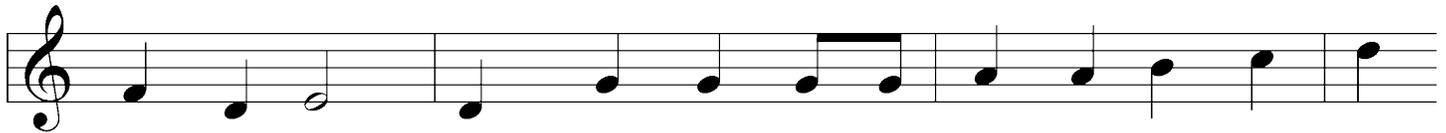
This is most certainly true.

+ CANTICLE +

936 Sing Praise to the God of Israel



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His
2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on
3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His
4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,
oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:
way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,
lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a
Of van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -
His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and
And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!
liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.
grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.
foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

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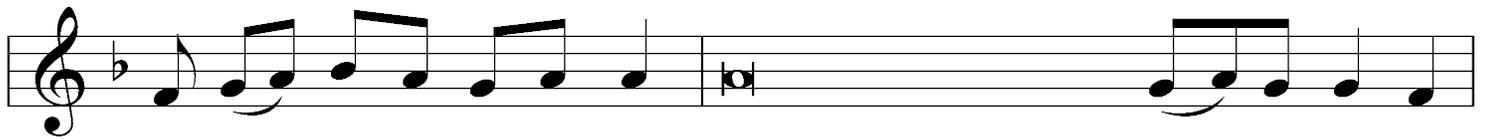
Stand

ANTIPHON

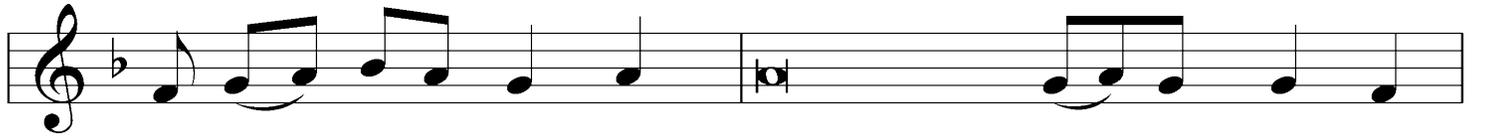
LSB, p. 231

- L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
- C** and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

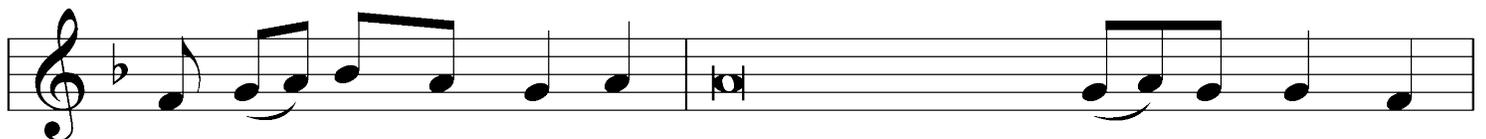
MAGNIFICAT



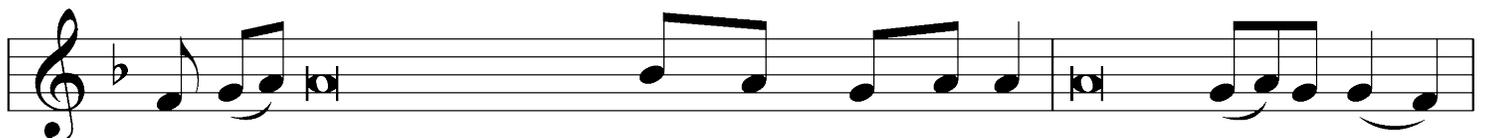
C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



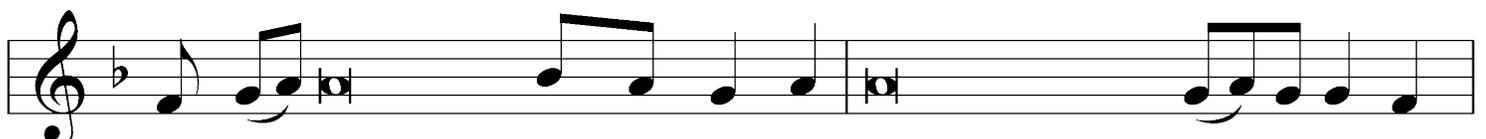
I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



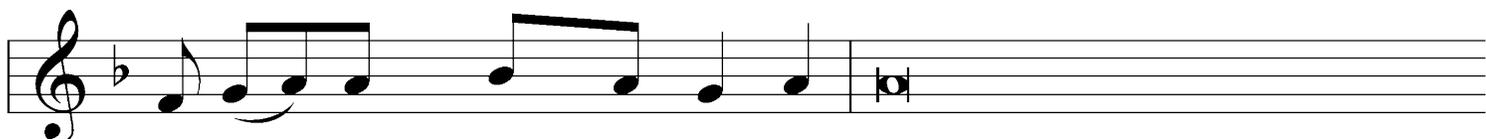
II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



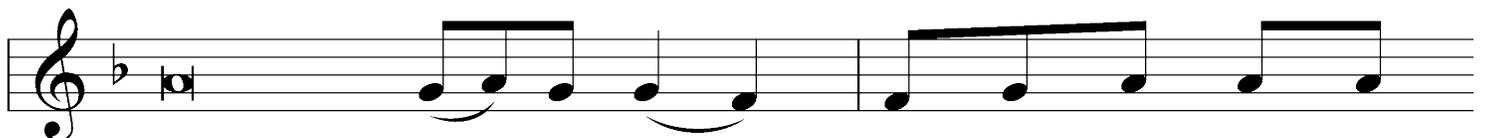
I For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;



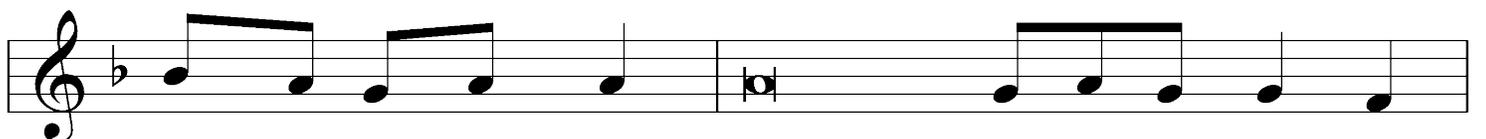
II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



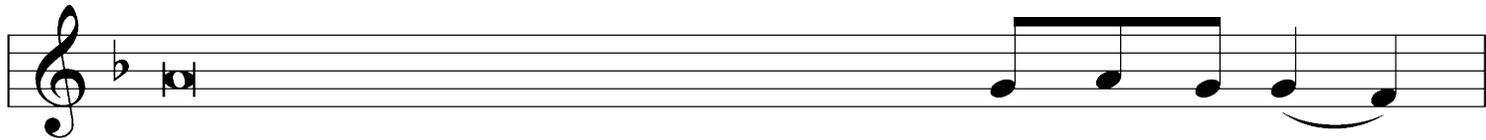
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



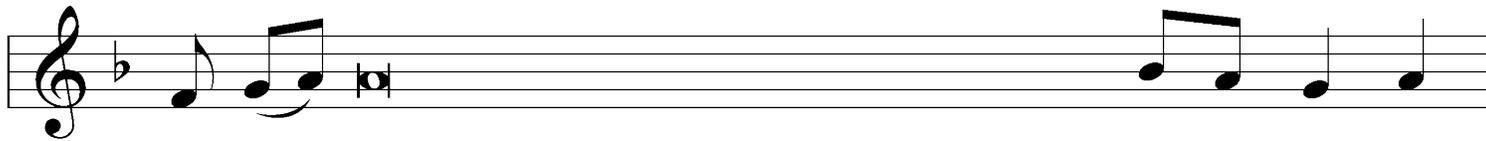
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



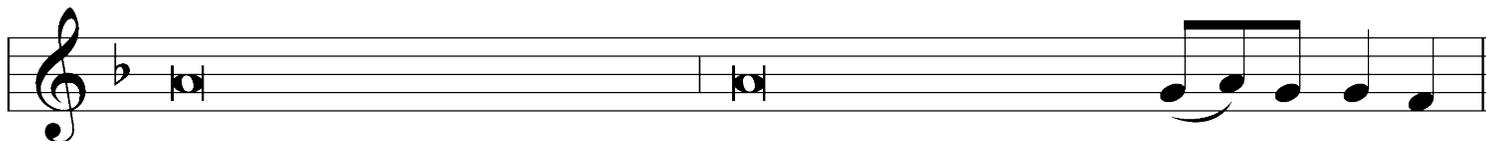
I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



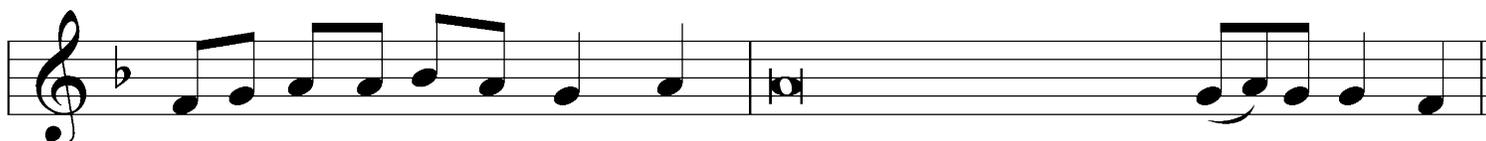
II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ev - er.



C Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Sit

OFFERING

+ PRAYER +

Kneel/Stand

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COLLECTS

L O Lord, hear my prayer.
C And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

ADDITIONAL COLLECTS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

COLLECT

P Blessed Lord, You made Yourself known in many and various ways in the days of old, but now in Your Son, You have fulfilled Your promise to dwell among Your people as Savior and Redeemer, calling us to new life in His name. Grant to us Your Holy Spirit that we may rejoice in Your presence, be moved to repentance and faith, and remember our Savior, whose voice speaks in Your Word and whose gracious acts continue to fill us with Your grace in the Holy Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

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.

C Amen.

Stand

♪BENEDICAMUS

LSB, p. 234

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

♫ BENEDECTION

P The grace of our Lord ✝ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

HYMN “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” (*LSB* 338)



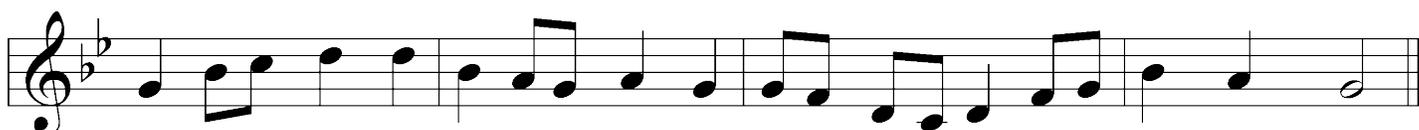
1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



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.

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Acknowledgments

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