

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church  
Hazen, North Dakota**

**December 14, 2022**

**Rev. Kirk Peters**



## Absalom

By now, one would think we are getting the message. We often pin our hopes on passing things and even on people who cannot save. God promised to our first parents and then again to our “father in faith,” Abraham, that one of their descendants would be our Savior from sin and death. Though He was their son, however, it was not yet Cain or Ishmael. God’s promise increased to the great king David, whose hopes were dashed with tears at the death of his son Absalom. Faith must hang on to the depth of God’s promise. It would be generations before God would finally send His own perfect Son, whose Baptism, suffering, death, and rising would bring forgiveness, life, and salvation to all who are children of God by faith in Jesus, great David’s greater Son.

### Opening Sentences

**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.

**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 110; antiphon: Psalm 146:3, 5*

- P** Put not your trust in princes,  
**C** **in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.**
- P** Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
**C** **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**
- P** The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand,  
**C** **until I make Your enemies Your footstool."**
- P** The LORD sends forth from Zion Your mighty scepter.  
**C** Rule in the midst of Your enemies!
- P** Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of  
Your power, in holy garments;  
**C** **from the womb of the morning, the dew of Your  
youth will be Yours.**
- P** The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind,  
**C** **"You are a priest forever after the order of  
Melchizedek."**
- P** The Lord is at Your right hand;  
**C** **He will shatter kings on the day of His wrath.**
- P** He will execute judgment among the nations,  
filling them with corpses;  
**C** **He will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.**
- P** He will drink from the brook by the way;  
**C** **therefore He will lift up His head.**
- 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.**
- P** Put not your trust in princes,  
**C** **in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.**
- P** Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
**C** **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

## 402 The Only Son from Heaven



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, Fore - told by an - cient seers,  
 2 O time of God ap - point - ed, O bright and ho - ly morn!  
 3 O Lord, our hearts a - wak - en To know and love You more,  
 △ 4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore You With God the Ho - ly Ghost



By God the Fa - ther giv - en, In hu - man form ap - pears.  
 He comes, the king a - noint - ed, The Christ, the vir - gin - born,  
 In faith to stand un - shak - en, In spir - it to a - dore,  
 And Je - sus, we a - dore You, O pride of an - gel host:



No sphere His light con - fin - ing, No star so bright - ly  
 Grim death to van - quish for us, To o - pen heav'n be -  
 That we, through this world mov - ing, Each glimpse of heav - en  
 Be - fore You mor - tals low - ly Cry, "Ho - ly, ho - ly,



shin - ing As He, our Morn - ing Star.  
 fore us And bring us life a - gain.  
 prov - ing, May reap its full - ness there.  
 ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

Text (sts. 1-3): Elisabeth Cruciger, c. 1500-1535; (sts. 1-3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.; (st. 4): Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978  
 Tune: Eyn Enchirdion oder Handbüchlein, 1524, Erfurt  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Readings

### First Reading

2 Samuel 18:24-33

**P** A reading from Second Samuel, the eighteenth chapter.

<sup>24</sup>Now David was sitting between the two gates, and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he lifted up his eyes and looked, he saw a man running alone. <sup>25</sup>The watchman called out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there is news in his

mouth.” And he drew nearer and nearer. <sup>26</sup>The watchman saw another man running. And the watchman called to the gate and said, “See, another man running alone!” The king said, “He also brings news.” <sup>27</sup>The watchman said, “I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok.” And the king said, “He is a good man and comes with good news.”

<sup>28</sup>Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king, “All is well.” And he bowed before the king with his face to the earth and said, “Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king.” <sup>29</sup>And the king said, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” Ahimaaz answered, “When Joab sent the king’s servant, your servant, I saw a great commotion, but I do not know what it was.” <sup>30</sup>And the king said, “Turn aside and stand here.” So he turned aside and stood still.

<sup>31</sup>And behold, the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, “Good news for my lord the king! For the LORD has delivered you this day from the hand of all who rose up against you.” <sup>32</sup>The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” And the Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you for evil be like that young man.” <sup>33</sup> And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** A reading from Ephesians, the fifth chapter.

<sup>1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

<sup>3</sup>But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup>Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not associate with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**P** A reading from Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

<sup>41</sup>Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, <sup>42</sup>saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of

David.” <sup>43</sup>He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

<sup>44</sup>“The Lord said to my Lord,  
Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet’?

<sup>45</sup>If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” <sup>46</sup>And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Responsory for Advent

*LSB, p. 230*

**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.**

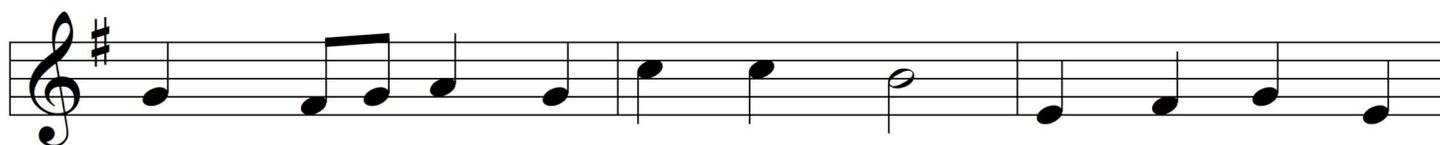
Sermon

# In This Precious Baby Boy

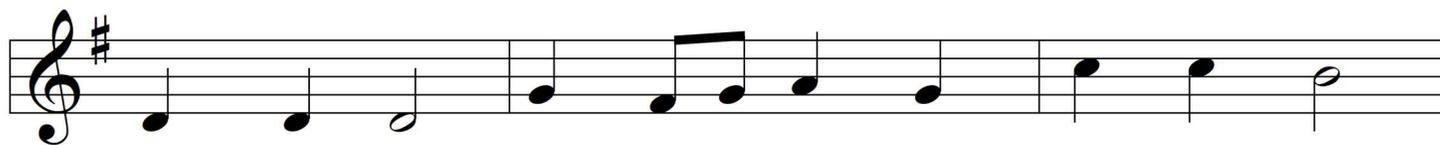
DIX

Lisa M. Clark

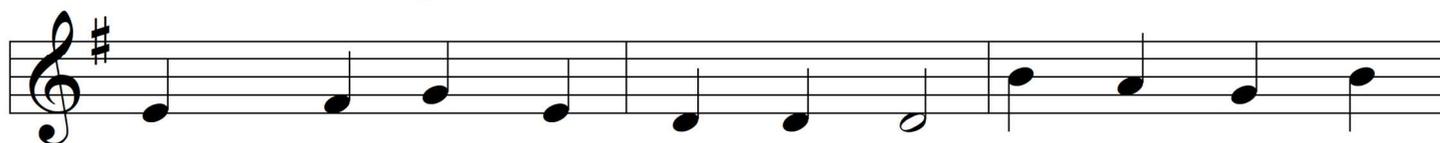
Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872



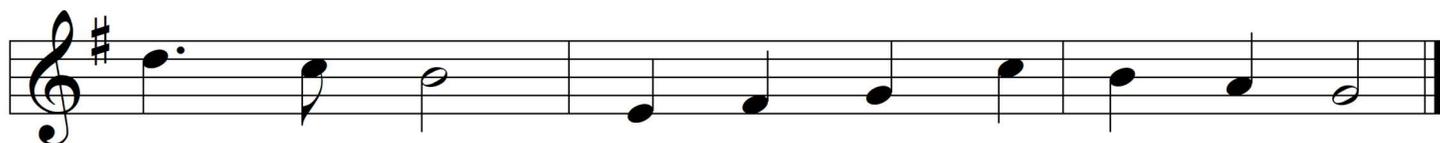
1 In this pre - cious ba - by boy, We are giv - en  
2 God's own chil - dren, we have strayed, Con - stant - ly have  
3 Through this ba - by in the hay, God has giv - en



peace and joy. By the Spir - it, hope is won—  
dis - o - beyed In the gar - den, in the sand,  
us the Way To in - her - it life a - bove,



Mar - y bore the Fa - ther's Son. Son of God and  
Through the riv - er, in the Land. But the Child who  
Res - cued by His per - fect love. In this Child, we



Son of Man: He ful - fills the ho - ly plan.  
takes our place Bears the cross to earn us grace.  
all may be Chil - dren of e - ter - ni - ty.

## Canticle

Antiphon

LSB, p. 231

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

A Song of the Spirit

Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17; antiphon: v. 20

**P** “Surely I am coming soon.”

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

**P** “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing My recompense with Me,  
to repay everyone for what he has done.

**C I am the Alpha and the Omega,  
the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”**

**P** Blessed are those who wash their robes,  
so that they may have the right to the tree of life  
and that they may enter the city by the gates.

**C “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you  
about these things for the churches.**

**P** I am the root and the descendant of David,  
the bright morning star.”

**C The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.”  
And let the one who hears say, “Come.”**

**P** And let the one who is thirsty come;  
let the one who desires take the water of life without  
price.

**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.**

**P** “Surely I am coming soon.”

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

### Offering

*~ ~ drop your offering in the box in the narthex, mail it, use the link on the church website or the Vanco app. (If you still have the Give+ app please update to the new Vanco app.) ~ ~*

## Prayer

Kyrie

LSB, p. 233

**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

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

Collect of the Day

**P** Living God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy and pity. Grant us the fullness of Your grace to lay hold of Your promises and live forever in Your presence; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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** God our Father, You sent the true Son of David, Your only Son, to become a curse for us by hanging Him from the tree of the cross. By the sacrifice of His flesh,

He has opened the way to eternal life through the forgiveness of our sins. As we have been baptized into His death, strengthen our faith always as heirs of Your heavenly kingdom; through the same, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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.

Benedicamus

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**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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**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.

# 494 See, the Lord Ascends in Triumph



1 See, the Lord as - cends in tri - umph; Con - qu'ring King in  
 2 Who is this that comes in glo - ry With the trump of  
 3 While He lifts His hands in bless - ing, He is part - ed  
 4 Now our heav'n - ly Aar - on en - ters With His blood with -  
 5 He has raised our hu - man na - ture On the clouds to



roy - al state, Rid - ing on the clouds, His char - iot, To His  
 ju - bi - lee? Lord of bat - tles, God of ar - mies, He has  
 from His friends; While their ea - ger eyes be - hold Him, He up -  
 in the veil; Josh - ua now is come to Ca - naan, And the  
 God's right hand; There we sit in heav'n - ly plac - es, There with



heav'n - ly pal - ace gate. Hark! The choirs of an - gel voic - es  
 gained the vic - to - ry. He who on the cross did suf - fer,  
 on the clouds as - cends. He who walked with God and pleased Him,  
 kings be - fore Him quail. Now He plants the tribes of Is - rael  
 Him in glo - ry stand. Je - sus reigns, a - dored by an - gels;



Joy - ful al - le - lu - ias sing, And the por - tals  
 He who from the grave a - rose, He has van - quished  
 Preach - ing truth and doom to come, He, our E - noch,  
 In their prom - ised rest - ing place; Now our great E -  
 Man with God is on the throne. By our might - y



high are lift - ed To re - ceive their heav'n - ly King.  
 sin and Sa - tan; He by death has crushed His foes.  
 is trans - lat - ed To His ev - er - last - ing home.  
 li - jah of - fers Dou - ble por - tion of His grace.  
 Lord's as - cen - sion We by faith be - hold our own.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, abr., alt.  
 Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79  
 Text and tune: Public domain

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