

# Advent



**West Portal Lutheran Church & School  
Advent Midweek 1  
November 29, 2023**

ADVENT MIDWEEK 1—NOVEMBER 29, 2023

## THIS IS MY SON: CAIN

**THEME OF THE DAY** *Just as God's people of old waited with faith in the coming Messiah, so is our Advent anticipation of Christmas, as we sing of the Savior, "Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!" (LSB 334:1). Our hopes and fears are real. They can distract us from God's promises. God's promise was from the beginning spoken to Adam and Eve. Salvation would come through the woman's offspring (Genesis 3:15). But it would not be Cain, the son of Adam, nor Ishmael, the son of Abraham, nor Absalom, the son of David. The true Son of Adam and Abraham and David is the Son of God. Our attention and faith thus direct our hopes and fears to God's Son, in whom we receive adoption as sons and daughters in the family of God.*

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

*Stand*

### OPENING HYMN

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

*LSB 341, Sts. 1-4*

- 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!

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#### 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.

**All:** 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.

**PSALM** *Psalm 9:1–12; antiphon: Psalm 146:3, 5*

**P** Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.  
**C** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God.

**P** I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds.  
**C** I will be glad and exult in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

**P** When my enemies turn back, they stumble and perish before Your presence.  
**C** For You have maintained my just cause; You have sat on the throne, giving righteous judgment.

- P** You have rebuked the nations; You have made the wicked perish.  
You have blotted out their name forever and ever.
- C** **The enemy came to an end in everlasting ruins; their cities  
You rooted out; the very memory of them has perished.**
- P** But the LORD sits enthroned forever; He has established His  
throne for justice, and He judges the world with righteousness; He  
judges the peoples with up-rightness.
- C** **The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in  
times of trouble.**
- P** And those who know Your name put their trust in You, for You, O  
LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.
- C** **Sing praises to the LORD, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell  
among the peoples His deeds!**
- P** For He who avenges blood is mindful of them; He does not forget  
the cry of the afflicted.

**All:** **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, in a son of man, in whom there is no  
salvation.
- C** **Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in  
the LORD his God.**

*Sit*

#### FIRST READING

#### Genesis 4:1-16

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.” And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it.”

Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” And the LORD said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.” Cain said to the LORD, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.” Then the LORD said to him, “Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.” And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him. Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

#### SECOND READING

**Romans 5:12-17**

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. If, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

### THIRD READING

**Matthew 5:17-26**

[Jesus said:] “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

### 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.

### SERMON HYMN

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

**LSB 356**

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady.”  
Gloria!

- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee;  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady."  
Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady,  
Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady."  
Gloria!

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**SERMON**                    **"This is My Son: Cain"**  
                                  **Text: Genesis 4:1-16**

#### **TITHES AND OFFERING**

Offering plates to receive your offering are located at the Sanctuary Entrance.

*Stand*

#### **ANTIPHON**

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

#### **MAGNIFICAT**

**P** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;  
**C** for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.  
  
**P** For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.  
**C** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;  
**P** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.  
**C** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

**P** He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

**C** **He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.**

**P** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

**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.**

#### CLOSING PRAYERS

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, while Cain, the first son of Adam, was a murderer, You, the Son of God, endured murder for us men and for our salvation at the hands of sinful men so that we could become true children of God. Forgive our hateful and murderous thoughts, words, and deeds, and move us to be our brothers' keeper, loving one another even as You have loved us; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**All:** **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** O Lord, by Your own power, You turn sinners from their wicked ways to become Your adopted sons and daughters through repentance of our sins and faith in Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Help us to direct all our hope to Your gracious will, which You have revealed in Your Son, the Word made flesh, 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.**

#### **BENEDICAMUS**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

#### **BENEDICTION**

**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.**

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

*Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come* *LSB 350, Sts. 1, 2, 4*

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,  
Only hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world!  
Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see;  
Anxiously we wait for Thee.
  
- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,  
Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,  
Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine  
When Thou art my guest divine!
  
- 4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!  
Jesus, hear our supplication!  
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,  
Bring us blessing and salvation,  
That forever we may sing:  
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

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*Sit*

#### **POSTLUDE**

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+ SERVING YOU TODAY +

*Preacher & Liturgist*  
*Organist*  
*Altar Guild*

*The Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor*  
*Amy Kao*  
*Angie Holt, Ernestine Gutter, Judy Law*

## Midweek Advent Services Continue in December



In Advent we prepare for the “advent,” or coming of the Lord our Savior. He first came in the flesh at Christmas, the fulfillment of all the prophecies of the Old Testament. More than that, however, He comes to us today in His Word and Sacraments. Then, as at His first coming, we gather now in patient anticipation of His final coming in the day of the resurrection of all flesh.

This Advent we are reminded that Christ is born in us spiritually today and every day. He enters into us daily to strengthen and support us, save us and renew us. We are changed by his presence within us as we become more and more like him in the living of our lives.

We continue to gather for Midweek Advent Services on Wednesdays, December 6, 13, and 20 at 7:00PM. Join us at 6:00PM for a congregational dinner and fellowship prior to each Service.

Advent Midweek 2 - December 6, 2023  
*This Is My Son: Ishmael*

Advent Midweek 3 - December 13, 2023  
*This Is My Son: Absalom*

Advent Midweek 4 - December 20, 2023  
*This Is My Son: Jesus*

**Congregational Advent Dinner at 6PM is provided by Dan Holt.**  
All are welcome to a light dinner of soup, salad, bread and dessert.  
You only need to bring your appetite!



**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS** are available on the table in the Narthex. Be sure to pick up one for use during Advent.



## Altar Flower Donations

The Altar Guild is again planning to purchase poinsettias to help decorate the Church during this Christmas Season. If you would like to help by donating to the flower fund, please complete this form and return it to the Church Office by Sunday, December 17. The suggested minimum donation is \$15.00. Please make the check payable to Altar Guild—West Portal Lutheran Church

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Name of person(s) donating flowers

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Name of person(s) honored or remembered



# *Christmas Services*

Join with us and invite family and friends to worship the Lord at any of our Christmas Services.

**CHRISTMAS EVE DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION—SUNDAY**

12/24/23 10:00AM Divine Service-Lord's Supper

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE—SUNDAY**

12/24/23 5:00PM Christmas Service

**Christmas Day -MONDAY**

12/25/23 10:00AM Divine Service-Lord's Supper

**SATURDAY**

12/30/23 NO WORSHIP SERVICE THIS SATURDAY

**NEW YEAR'S EVE DIVINE SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION—SUNDAY**

12/31/23 10:00AM Divine Service-Lord's Supper

**MONDAY**

1/1/24 NEW YEAR'S DAY NO SERVICE



**WPL School PTL  
Christmas Faire  
Saturday, December 9  
10:00AM—3:30PM**



Join us for our Christmas Faire – an annual fundraising event and one of the school's largest events! Each year the faire features caroling hosted by grades K-6, a silent auction, delicious food, carnival games, bake sale, various vendor tables selling items to kick off your holiday shopping, and a great time for fellowship with the school and community.



**LET US PRAY TO THE LORD GOD** for those who are ill, home-bound, or recovering from recent hospitalization: Vincent Ammann, Beatrice Priest's father; Elfriede Bonfert; Paul Brase; Charlene Brugemann-Wong; William Chen; Angie Cheung, Helen Bok's sister-in-law; Bill Eves, Virginia Ferry's cousin; Jimmy Fong, Evelyn Fong's father; Karen Goeglien, Bob Bok's cousin; Ted Jones; Carolyn Landgrebe, Margaret Finley's sister; Jan Lundquist; Susie Marzolf; George Mogyorossy, Gilbert Mogyorossy's father; Aiden Oachs, Rich & Terry Hesselroth's step-grandson; Sigrid Rogge; Art Spleiss, Ruth Stresow; Lisa Westermann; Cheryl Wong; Marilyn Wong; Franklin Yee.



**West Portal Lutheran**  
*Church & School*

**Worship Services**  
Saturday, 5:00PM  
Sunday, 10:00AM

**Bible Classes**  
Wednesday, 11:00AM  
Sunday, 9:00AM

**Sunday School**  
Sunday, 9:00AM

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Rev. Curtis Binz,  
*Senior Pastor*

Ms. Sherise Lee,  
*Principal*

Mrs. Sherilyn Jew,  
*Assistant to the Principal-*  
*Teaching, Learning, Curriculum*

Ms. Amy Kao  
*Music Director*

*Advent Midweek I*  
11/29/23  
7:00PM