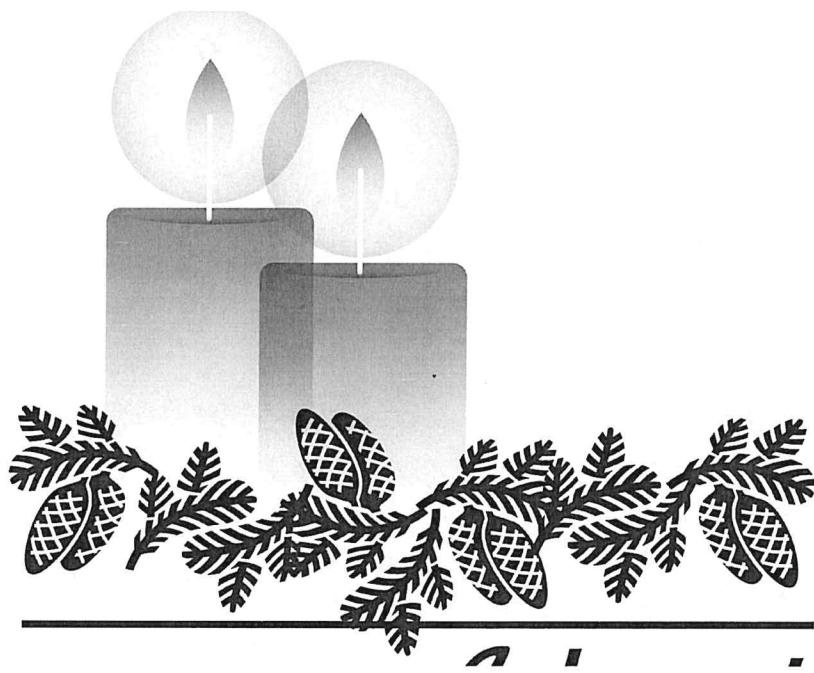


Advent



**West Portal Lutheran Church & School
Advent Midweek 2
December 6, 2023**

ADVENT MIDWEEK 2—DECEMBER 6, 2023

THIS IS MY SON: ISHAMEL

THEME OF THE DAY Our Advent expectation continues as we wait to celebrate the gift of God's promised Son to be our Savior. Like us, Abraham struggled as God's promise seemed less likely to come about, especially as the years passed into decades. As our faith may at times grow weak, we are tempted to take matters into our own hands, only to discover that our efforts fail. That is one reason we are here again this day, in order that God's Word and Spirit strengthen our faith, even in the face of all doubts, to wait upon God's sure and gracious promises. The true Son of Abraham is the One whom God has sent and designated, saying, "This is My beloved Son." Jesus brings all of God's promises together to make us sons and daughters of God. Believe it. Live it.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Stand

OPENING HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

LSB 798, Sts. 1-4

- 1 The God of Abr'ham praise,
Who reigns enthroned above;
Ancient of everlasting days
And God of love.
Jehovah, great I AM!
By earth and heav'n confessed;
I bow and bless the sacred name
Forever blest.

- 2 The God of Abr'ham praise,
At whose supreme command
From earth I rise and seek the joys
At His right hand.

I all on earth forsake,
Its wisdom, fame, and pow'r,
And Him my only portion make,
My shield and tow'r.

3 The God of Abr'ham praise,
Whose all-sufficient grace
Shall guide me all my pilgrim days
In all my ways.
He deigns to call me friend;
He calls Himself my God.
And He shall save me to the end
Through Jesus' blood.

4 He by Himself has sworn;
I on His oath depend.
I shall, on eagle wings upborne,
To heav'n ascend.
I shall behold His face;
I shall His pow'r adore
And sing the wonders of His grace
Forevermore.

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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 25; 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 To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

C O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not
my enemies exult over me.

P Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

C **Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.**

P Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long.

C **Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, 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.**

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 16:1-16

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. She had a female Egyptian servant whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Go in to my servant; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. So, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife. And he went in to Hagar, and she conceived. And when she saw that she had conceived, she looked with contempt on her mistress. And Sarai said to Abram, "May the wrong done to me be on you! I gave my servant to your embrace, and when she saw that she had conceived, she looked on me with contempt. May the LORD judge between you and me!" But Abram said to Sarai, "Behold, your servant is in your power; do to her as you please." Then Sarai dealt harshly with her, and she fled from her.

The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from my mistress Sarai." The angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress and submit to her." The angel of the LORD also said to her, "I will surely multiply your offspring so that they cannot be numbered for multitude." And the angel of the LORD said to her,

“Behold, you are pregnant
and shall bear a son.
You shall call his name Ishmael,
because the LORD has listened to your affliction.
He shall be a wild donkey of a man,
his hand against everyone
and everyone’s hand against him,
and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen.”

So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, “You are a God of seeing,” for she said, “Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.” Therefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; it lies between Kadesh and Bered.

And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.

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

SECOND READING

Galatians 4:21-5:1

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written,

“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;
break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor!
For the children of the desolate one will be more
than those of the one who has a husband.”

Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

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

THIRD READING

Luke 3:1-9

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
 and the rough places shall become level ways,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'”

He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

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 *Oh, Blest the House***LSB 862**

- 1 Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall,
Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
A home that is not wholly His—
How sad and poor and dark it is!
- 2 Oh, blest that house where faith is found
And all in hope and love abound;
They trust their God and serve Him still
And do in all His holy will!
- 3 Oh, blest the parents who give heed
Unto their children's foremost need
And weary not of care or cost.
May none to them and heav'n be lost!
- 4 Oh, blest that house; it prospers well.
In peace and joy the parents dwell,
And in their children's lives is shown
How richly God can bless His own.
- 5 Then here will I and mine today
A solemn promise make and say:
Though all the world forsake His Word,
I and my house will serve the Lord!

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SERMON**“This is My Son: Ishmael”**
Text: Genesis 16:1-16**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 God, heavenly Father, You promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, You led him to the land of Canaan, and You sealed Your covenant with him by the shedding of blood. May we see in Jesus, the Seed of Abraham, the promise of the new covenant of Your Holy Church, sealed with Jesus' blood on the cross and given to us now in the cup of the new testament; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You 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 Almighty God, You have granted precious and great promises to all who believe, all things that pertain to life and godliness. Focus our

faith on the knowledge of Him who has called us to His own glory that we may be Your true sons and daughters in Your eternal kingdom; 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.

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

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

LSB 352

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- 2 What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- 3 Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.

- 4 As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.

- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

- 6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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Sit

POSTLUDE

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+ SERVING YOU TODAY +

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>The Rev. Jonathan Priest</i>
<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>The Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor</i>
<i>Pianist</i>	<i>Amy Kao</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Dick Bass, Stanley Tom, Philip Go, Chris Brase</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Darlene Hartman, Virginia Ferry, Gerda Beisel</i>



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

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 13, and 20 at 7:00PM. Join us at 6:00PM for a congregational dinner and fellowship prior to each Service.

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!



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.

Name of person(s) donating flowers

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—SUNDAY

12/24/23 10:00AM Divine Service-Lord's Supper
5:00PM Candlelight 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—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

CHURCH

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SCHOOL

Sloat Campus
200 Sloat Boulevard
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415-665-6330

Sunset Campus
3101 Moraga Street
San Francisco CA 94122
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www.wplsf.com

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 2
12/6/23
7:00PM