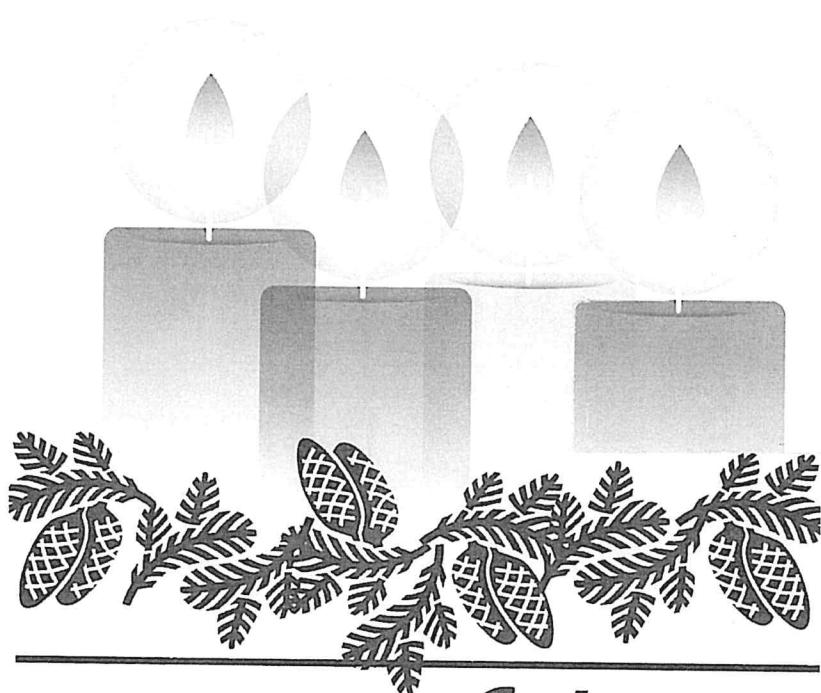


# **Advent**



**West Portal Lutheran Church & School  
Advent Midweek 4  
December 20, 2023**

## ADVENT MIDWEEK 4—DECEMBER 20, 2023

### THIS IS MY SON: JESUS

#### AS WE GATHER

Who is the Son of God? That first Christmas, the baby lying in the manger appeared to be the son of Mary and Joseph. Yet, this infant boy is so much more than meets the eye. He is the Son of God! How do we know? Just listen to God's Word in the proclamation of the angels: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Or hear the words of John 1: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). This Christmas, through faith, you also are more than what meets the eye. You are a child of God! How do you know? God's Word connected to water declares it because you are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Celebrate this Christmas that "when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4–5).

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME

*Stand*

#### OPENING HYMN

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

*LSB 332, Sts. 1-4*

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.
  
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh—  
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
  
- 3 Here a maid was found with child,  
Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown:  
God was there upon His throne.

4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all  
From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man,  
His heroic course began.

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#### INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\div$  Son and of the Holy  
Spirit  
**C** Amen.

#### OPENING SENTENCES

**P** Put not your trust in princes,  
**C** in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.  
  
**P** When his breath departs  
**C** he returns to the earth;  
  
**P** on that very day  
**C** his plans perish.  
  
**P** Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
**C** whose hope is in the **LORD** his God.

#### SERVICE OF LIGHT

**P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:  
**C** Come, Lord Jesus.  
  
**P** All those who await His appearance pray:  
**C** Come, Lord Jesus.  
  
**P** The whole creation pleads:  
**C** Come, Lord Jesus.  
  
**P** Celebrating the arrival of the Son of Man and the Son of God,  
we implore:  
**C** Come, Lord Jesus.

#### CONFESsION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** “We also, when we were children, were enslaved to the  
elementary principles of the world” (Galatians 4:3). Let us  
confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Galatians 4:4-5). Because of the Savior who is the Word made flesh and who dwelt among us, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

#### SALUTATION

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

#### COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. Father in heaven, You sent forth Your Son to be born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem us who were under the law. Grant that through faith we might rejoice in our baptismal adoption as Your children and our connection to Christ; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

#### FIRST READING

Daniel 7:13-14

I saw in the night visions,  
and behold, with the clouds of heaven  
there came one like a son of man,  
and he came to the Ancient of Days  
and was presented before him.  
And to him was given dominion  
and glory and a kingdom,

that all peoples, nations, and languages  
should serve him;  
his dominion is an everlasting dominion,  
which shall not pass away,  
and his kingdom one  
that shall not be destroyed.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

#### SECOND READING

**Galatians 4:1-7**

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

#### VERSE *John 1:14*

**All:** Alleluia. 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, Alleluia.

#### THIRD READING

**John 1:1-18**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people

did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And 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. (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.’”) And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

#### SERMON HYMN

*We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth*

*LSB 382, Sts. 1-4*

- 1 We praise You, Jesus, at Your birth;  
Clothed in flesh You came to earth.  
The virgin bears a sinless boy  
And all the angels sing for joy.  
Alleluia!
- 2 Now in the manger we may see  
God’s Son from eternity,  
The gift from God’s eternal throne  
Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone.  
Alleluia!
- 3 The virgin Mary’s lullaby  
Calms the infant Lord Most High.  
Upon her lap content is He  
Who keeps the earth and sky and sea.  
Alleluia!
- 4 The Light Eternal, breaking through,  
Made the world to gleam anew;  
His beams have pierced the core of night,  
He makes us children of the light.  
Alleluia!

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SERMON

“This is My Son: Jesus”

Text: John 1:1-18

**TITHES AND OFFERING**

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

*Stand*

**APOSTLE'S CREED**

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.**

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life  $\dagger$  everlasting. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**P** We come before our Lord in prayer in the name of the Holy Child of Bethlehem, the Son of Man and the Son of God.

Heavenly Father, we rejoice at the coming of Your Son for our salvation. Grant that we might share the Good News of Christ this Christmastime that many other find joy at the coming of Your Son to bring them life and salvation. Hear us, for the sake of Jesus.

**C** **Son of Man and Son of God.**

**P** Heavenly Father, we remember before You those who are suffering ills of body or mind even as we celebrate Christ's birth. According to Your will, bless them with healing and joy even in the midst of woe. We bring before You especially [names]. Hear us, for the sake of Jesus,

**C** **Son of Man and Son of God.**

**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** Son of Man and Son of God. 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.

#### CLOSING PRAYER

**P** This Christmas, we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." True Son of Adam,  
**C** come, Lord Jesus.

**P** True Son of Abraham,  
**C** come, Lord Jesus.

**P** True Son of David,  
**C** come, Lord Jesus.

**P** True Son of God,  
**C** come, Lord Jesus.

**P** True Son of Man,  
**C** come, Lord Jesus.

**P** That we might receive adoption as sons,  
**C** come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

#### BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{\tfrac{a}{+}}$  give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

*LSB 367*

- 1 Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth. **Refrain**

**Refrain**

Come and worship, come and worship;  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

- 2 Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the Infant Light. **Refrain**
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. **Refrain**
- 4 Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. **Refrain**
- 5 All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One. **Refrain**

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*Sit*

## POSTLUDE

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+ SERVING YOU TODAY +

<i>Preacher &amp; Liturgist</i>	<i>The Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor</i>
<i>Pianist</i>	<i>Amy Kao</i>
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Tom Wedergren, Steve Wood, Alex Lew, Robert Bok, Patrick Man</i>
<i>Altar Guild</i>	<i>Darlene Hartman, Virginia Ferry, Gerda Beisel</i>

## Christmas Schedule for December 2023

## 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.

SUNDAY  
10/24/11

12/31/17 10:00AM Divine Service-Lord's Supper

**MONDAY**  
1/1/13

1/1/24 New Year's Day No Service

## Commitment Forms Reminder

**THANK YOU** for submitting your Time and Talent and Treasure commitment forms. If you have not already submitted them, we will accept them through the remainder of December. Copies of the forms are available on the table in the Narthex.

**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**  
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200 Sloat Boulevard  
San Francisco CA 94132  
415-665-6330

Sunset Campus  
3101 Moraga Street  
San Francisco CA 94122  
415-731-3000  
www.wplsfc.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 4  
12/20/23  
7:00PM*