

# Midweek Advent Three: Advent Faith

**Hymn: 315 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord**

## **Invocation**

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **Psalm 146:2, 5-8**

I will praise the Lord all my life;  
**I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
**whose hope is in the Lord their God.**

He is the Maker of heaven and earth,  
the sea, and everything in them—  
**he remains faithful forever.**

He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
**and gives food to the hungry.**

The Lord sets prisoners free,  
**the Lord gives sight to the blind,**

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,  
**the Lord loves the righteous.**

## 141A Let My Prayer Rise before You

Psalm 141A

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.  
O LORD, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice  
when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Tune: David Schack

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## Prayer

Lord, we bow down to you in thankful praise. You have made your ways known to both lowly and great on the earth. You have not abandoned the work of your hands, but instead you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PM Choir Anthem: Will We Know Him?

Adult Choir

## Reading

Luke 1:26–38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup>“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For no word from God will ever fail.”

<sup>38</sup>“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

## Hymn: 328 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Sermon: Luke 1:26-38

Pastor Robert Raasch

## Offering

## Prayer of the Church

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent’s head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**Move us to take to heart the words of John: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.  
**Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.  
**Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.  
**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.  
**Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Blessing**

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn: 782 Luther's Morning and Evening Prayer**

*10:00 AM – Morning Stanza and Stanza 2*

*6:00 PM- Evening Stanza and Stanza 2*

**AM Organist: Jon Riehle**

**PM Organist: Sarah Sehloff**

**Adult Choir: Klint Kaddatz**

**Adult Choir Accompanist: Michele Pfeifer**

## **Acknowledgments**

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