

Crèche: Third Wednesday in Advent -- Wednesday December 17th, 2025

As we look forward to the return of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the hope, faith, joy, and peace He comes to bring us.

Tonight, we focus on the crèche—those miniature models of the nativity scene that abound each December. Unlike lights and evergreens, the symbols that aided our meditation these last two weeks, the crèche is distinctly Christian. In it, we behold Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the Magi, the angels, the stable animals, and, at the center, baby Jesus. Some places introduce the characters in chronological order; others put them all out at once. Either way, the crèche represents a crucial, historical event: God taking on human form and human nature so that He could take our place and redeem us from all sin. We behold it with fresh eyes this evening.

Hymn: Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332

LSB 229

Vespers

Psalm

Psalm 89:1-8; antiphon: v. 8



- P** O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, | O LORD,*
with Your faithfulness all a- | round You?
I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, for- | ever; *
with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all gener- | ations.
 - C** For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up for- | ever; *
in the heavens You will establish Your | faithfulness.”
You have said, “I have made a covenant with My | chosen one; *
I have sworn to David My | servant:
 - P** ‘I will establish your offspring for- | ever, *
and build your throne for all gener- | ations.’”
Let the heavens praise Your wonders, | O LORD, *
Your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones!
 - C** For who in the skies can be compared | to the LORD? *
Who among the heavenly beings is | like the LORD,
a God greatly to be feared in the council of the | holy ones, *
and awesome above all who are a- | round Him?
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son *
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning, *
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- C** O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, | O LORD,*
with Your faithfulness all a- | round You?

Hymn: People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near Of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,



Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
That in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.

4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
Him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
With the Word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965 Tune: French Text: Public domain Tune: Public domain

First Reading

1 John 1:1–4

P A reading from First John, the first chapter.

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

P A reading from St. Matthew, the first chapter.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Responsory for Advent

LSB 230

Hymn: My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933

Sermon

LSB 231

Canticle

Offering

LSB 233

Kyrie

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357 sts. 1, ref, 5

