

# THE ADVENT JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

*Reflections on  
T.S. Eliot's Poem  
& Our Journey  
in Jesus*

## Stanza Three

*But there was  
no information,  
and so we continued*



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent  
December 12, 2021**

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A LOVING HUSBAND AND FATHER.



***THE LITURGY FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS***

This service carries the themes of Advent using words drawn from the New Testament Letter to the Hebrews—the Hebrew Christians who welcomed Jesus as Messiah.

**Opening Hymn**

***Arise, O Christian People***

LSB 354



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -  
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the  
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on  
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -  
day;  
best. Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your  
high; Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this  
side, Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty  
And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed  
sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The  
heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The  
soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That  
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come  
truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from  
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -  
heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -  
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es  
heav - en To all the world is shown.  
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.  
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.  
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

### ***Invocation and Greeting***

P: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Grace be with all of you.

*Hebrews 13:25*

**C: And also with you.**

P: In a very little while, the One who is coming will come and will not delay. *Heb. 10:37*  
Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the age  
to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. *Hebrews 9:26*

**C: I will put my trust in him.**

*Hebrews 2:13*

P: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

*Hebrews 13:8*

**C: I will put my trust in him.**

P: I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters.

**C: In the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Amen.**

*Hebrews 2:12*

### ***Confession of Sin***

P: Brothers and sisters, we have come to Mount Zion *Hebrews 12:22-24*  
and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,  
and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,  
and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,  
and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,  
and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant,  
and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.  
Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,  
Jesus, the Son of God,  
let us hold fast to our confession.

For we do not have a high priest  
who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses  
but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are,  
yet without sin.

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness,  
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Heb. 4:14-16*

*Silence for meditation on our need for Christ's forgiveness.*

## ***Absolution (Forgiveness)***

P: The Holy Spirit says,

Hebrews 10:15-17

“This is the covenant that I will make with them  
after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts,  
and I will write them on their minds,”  
and, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”  
Your sins are forgiven

in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: ***Amen. Christ has appeared once for all at the end of the age  
to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself.***

Hebrews 9:26

***I will put my trust in him. Amen.***

Hebrews 2:13

## ***Hymn of Praise Since Our Great High Priest, Christ Jesus***

LSB 529 sts. 1-3

1 Since our great High Priest, Christ Je - sus, Bears the name a -  
2 Since we have a priest who suf - fered, Know - ing weak - ness,  
3 Sac - ri - fice and suf - f'ring o - ver, Now He sits at  
bove all names, Reign - ing Son of God, sur - pass - ing  
tears, and pain, Who like us was tried and tempt - ed,  
God's right hand, Crowned with praise, no more an out - cast,  
Oth - er ti - tles, pow'rs and claims— Since to heav'n our  
Un - like us, with - out a stain— Since He shared our  
His pre - em - i - nence long - planned; Such a great High  
Lord has passed, Let us hold our wit - ness fast!  
low - ly place, Let us bold - ly seek His grace.  
Priest we have, Strong to help, su - preme to save.

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## ***Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)***

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## ***Anthem***

## ***When Will the Little King Come?***

## ***Adult Choir***

- Use the anthem's music and words to help you to meditate on God's Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

When will the little King come? When will we see God's Son?

We will sing and shout for joy, greet the precious baby boy, when our Emmanuel comes.

When will the little King come?

Will He come like a breath of spring while the flowers are blossoming?

Will He come on a summer day while the children are at play?

When will the little King come?

Will He come when the air grows cold while the leaves turn to red and gold?

Will He come on a winter night while the stars are shining bright?

When will the little King come? When will we see God's son?

We will sing and shout for joy, greet the precious baby boy, when our Emmanuel comes.

When will the little King come?

## ***Reading from an Advent Prophet***

## ***Micah 5:1–5a (ESV)***

<sup>1</sup> Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops;

siege is laid against us;

with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek.

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,

who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel,

whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in labor has given birth;

then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure,

for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace.

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

**Old Testament Canticle (sung three times)**

from LSB # 261

*Refrain*



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and  
He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

**A Vision of the Second Advent of Jesus****Revelation 19:11–16 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup>Then I, [John], saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup>His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. <sup>13</sup>He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. <sup>14</sup>And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. <sup>15</sup>From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. <sup>16</sup>On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Magnificat (based on the Song of Mary)** Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord LSB 935, st. 2

2 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;  
His ho - ly name, the Lord, the Might - y One.

## ***Gospel Declaration***

P: Long ago in many and various ways

God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C: *But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.***

P: He is the reflection of God's glory

and the exact imprint of God's very being,

**C: *and he sustains all things by his powerful word.***

P: When he had made purification for sins,

**C: *he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Amen.***

Hebrews 1:1-3

## ***Holy Gospel***

### ***Matthew 2:1-9 (ESV)***

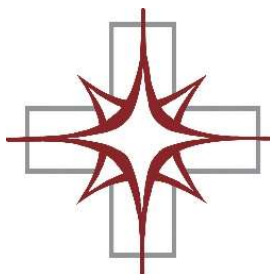
<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"*And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.*"

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: *Thanks be to God.***



**Hymn of the Day****O Little Town of Bethlehem**

LSB 361





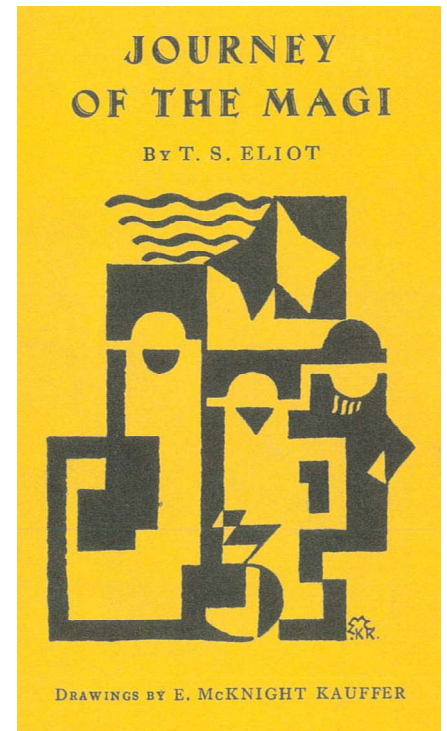
**Sermon**

***“But there was no information, and so we continued”***

***Matthew 2:3-9 & Micah 5:2***

**The Journey of the Magi**  
**by T.S. Eliot (1927)**

“A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey:  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.”  
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,  
Lying down in the melting snow.  
There were times we regretted  
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,  
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.  
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling  
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,  
And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,  
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly  
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:  
A hard time we had of it.  
At the end we preferred to travel all night,  
Sleeping in snatches,  
With the voices singing in our ears, saying  
That this was all folly.  
Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,  
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;  
With a running stream and a water-mill beating the darkness,  
And three trees on the low sky,  
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.  
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,



Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,  
 And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.  
 But there was no information, and so we continued  
 And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon  
 Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.  
 All this was a long time ago, I remember,  
 And I would do it again, but set down  
 This set down  
 This: were we led all that way for  
 Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,  
 We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,  
 But had thought they were different; this Birth was  
 Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.  
 We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,  
 But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,  
 With an alien people clutching their gods.  
 I should be glad of another death.

“The Journey of the Magi” (*The Ariel Poems*): Eliot, T. S. *The Ariel Poems*. Faber & Faber, 2014.

**Response (based on the Song of Mary)** *Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord* LSB 935, st. 1  
 Sung as our Offerings are brought forward to the Altar



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!  
 Un - num - bered bless - ings, give my spir - it voice;  
 Ten - der to me the prom - ise of His Word;  
 In God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - joice.

## ***Prayer Requests***

*In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.*

## ***Prayers***

P: In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications,  
with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death,  
and he was heard because of his reverent submission. *Hebrews 5:7*  
Brothers and sisters, let us pray to the God of peace. *Hebrews 13:20*

## ***The Lord's Prayer***

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

***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.***

## ***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

P: Father, we have heard the goodness of Your Word. We have seen Your salvation that comes to us by Your Son. The Good News has come to us, and we praise You from Your dwelling place. We praise You as we go this day. We ask that You will strengthen us in faith in this Good News.  
In the Name of Jesus, we pray.

**C: Amen.** *Hebrews 6:5, 4:2*

## ***Benediction***

P: Now may the God of peace,  
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you complete in everything good  
so that you may do his will,  
working in you that which is pleasing in his sight,  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever. *Hebrews 13:20-21*

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn*****The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns***

LSB 348



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.  
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.  
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.  
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

***Announcements***

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## UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, December 15**

In-Person Worship\*(In Sanctuary) – 6:30PM

**Sunday, December 19**

In-Person Worship\*(In Gym w/Communion) – 9AM

Fellowship 10-10:30AM

Sunday School 10:30-11:30AM

**Friday, December 24**

In-Person Worship\*(In Gym) – 6:30PM

**Saturday, December 25**

In-Person Worship\*(In Gym w/Communion) – 10AM

**Sunday, December 26**

In-Person Worship\*(In Gym) – 10AM

