

Images of the Nativity

Advent
Midweek
Worship



Käthe Kollwitz
German, 1867-1945

Maria und Elisabeth (1929)
Woodcut on Japan paper

Series inspired by the
Thrivent Collection of
Religious Art

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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ADVENT PROPHETS, 2ND VERSION

A 2nd version of a service that draws from readings often used for the weeks of Advent, the Old Testament prophets who pointed to the first Advent of Jesus, His birth, and His Second Advent still to come.

Entrance Words and Invocation

based on Isaiah 2:3,5, 61:10

P: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

C: *to the house of the God of Jacob,*

P: to His Church, the ones gathered around Jesus Christ,

C: *that he may teach us his ways*

P: and that we may walk in his paths.

O house of Jacob, O people of Jesus,

come, let us walk in the light of the LORD,

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

C: *Amen! I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;*

my soul shall be overjoyed because of my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

Opening Hymn

We Bring Our Art to You

tune: LSB 331



1 We bring our art to You, Our Sec - ond Ad - vent King;
2 We bring our art as prayer, Our suff' - ring and our dreams;
3 We see You in the art, Truth whe - ther known or not;
4 We are the art You made, But we are flawed and torn;
5 Your Ad - vent art in us Will be our hope for now;



We paint and draw to hon - or You, The new world You will bring.
I - mag - ine rooms which You pre - pare For us who'll be re - deemed.
All things can be a place You start Point - ing to what You taught.
Yet in Your love we do not fade; With Je - sus, hope's re - born.
One Day we'll see the God You are: Ar - tist Most Glor - i - ous.

Text: Benjamin C. Squires, 1973. © 2023.

Confession of Sin

based on Isaiah 64:5-6,8-9

P: We confess to the Lord that we have been in our sins a long time; Shall we be saved?
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

C: **O LORD, you are our Father;**
we are the clay, and You are our potter;
we are the work of your hand.
Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
And do not remember our sin forever.
Behold, please look, we are Your people.
Come, Lord Jesus, and save us. Amen.

Absolution (Forgiveness) & Thanksgiving

based on Zephaniah 3:14-15,17

P: Sing aloud, O children of God; shout, O Church of Christ!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O children of the Lord's Kingdom!
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;
The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.
The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;
he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing.
Jesus Christ is the Mighty One who has opened the way of salvation.
Your sins are forgiven
in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Response to the Lord's Forgiveness Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349, sts. 2-3

inspired in part by Zephaniah 3:15

2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
burst, The i - ron the fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.

P: Alleluia.

C: **Alleluia.**

P: Prepare the way of the Lord,

C: **make his paths straight;**

P: all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

C: **We shall see the salvation of our God.**

P: Alleluia.

C: **Alleluia. Amen.**

Tonight's Reading

Luke 1:39–56 (ESV)

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O Lord, as we have known the incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of the angel to the virgin Mary, so by the message of His cross and passion bring us to the glory of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn of the Day

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

LSB 934



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.



Sermon

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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 everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

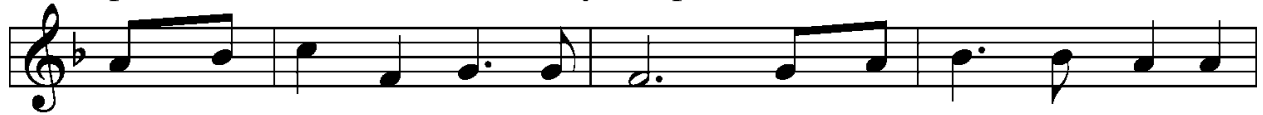
LSB 548 sts. 1, 3



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O
3 For the joy Thine ad - vent gave me, For Thy ho - ly,



Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,
pre - cious Word; For Thy Bap - tism, which doth save me,



Thou hast con - quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -
For Thy blest Com - mu - nion board; For Thy death, the bit - ter



rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly
scorn, For Thy res - ur - rec - tion morn, Lord, I thank Thee



sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.
and ex - tol Thee, And in heav'n I shall be - hold Thee.

Prayers

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.

Benediction

based on Isaiah 61:1-3,8

P: The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Jesus,
because the LORD has anointed Him to bring good news to you;
he has sent Jesus to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God against sin, death, and the devil;
to comfort all who mourn; giving them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit.
So that you may be called oaks of righteousness.
The Lord says to you: I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



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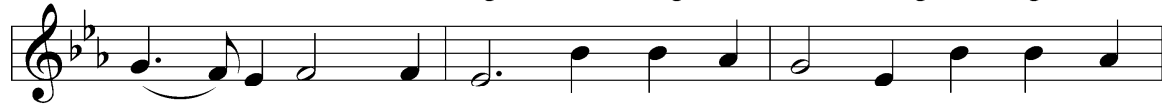
Acknowledgments

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1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Announcements