



ADVENT

P: O Lord, open my lips

C: And my mouth shall declare your praise

P: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C: And the day is almost over.

P: Be our light and scatter the darkness,

C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.

C: 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.

The Old Testament Prophecies Concerning The Coming Christ

Genesis 22:9-18

***The Background** - This prophecy comes immediately after God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though the Lord had promised it would be through Isaac Abraham would be blessed, made into a great nation, and given descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. Still Abraham believed and trusted in the Lord to fulfill his promise, even as he was about to sacrifice his only son. In his grace, not only did God stop Abraham from sacrificing his son, but provided another sacrifice. In his mercy, not only did God reaffirm his love for Abraham, but renewed his promise with Abraham to bless and prosper him, as one day through his descendants the promised Savior would one day come.*

***The Prophecy** - ⁹When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”*

“Here I am,” he replied.

¹²“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

¹³Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

*¹⁵The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ **and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed.**”*

Numbers 24:15–17

***The Background** - This prophecy comes as the 12 tribes of Israel were on the verge of entering the promised land. In an attempt to stop the advancement of God's people, the King of Moab summoned a sorcerer to pronounce a curse upon Israel. But instead of a curse the Lord would only allow Balaam the sorcerer to speak words of blessing. Not only would Balaam speak words of prosperity as God would deliver his people into the promised land, but he also looks ahead and speaks to a time when God would send a greater Deliverer and Savior who would one day arise and rule over his people eternally.*

The Prophecy** - ¹⁵Then he spoke his message: “The prophecy of Balaam son of Beor, the prophecy of one whose eye sees clearly, ¹⁶the prophecy of one who hears the words of God, who has knowledge from the Most High, who sees a vision from the Almighty, who falls prostrate, and whose eyes are opened: ¹⁷“**I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.

Hymn CW #338

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

2 Samuel 7:8–16

***The Background** - This prophecy comes around 1000BC just as the Lord made David king of Israel. At this time, the Lord sends the prophet Nathan to King David with words of encouragement. Through Nathan, King David is reminded it is only by God's grace that he sits on the throne of Israel, and only by God's grace will God continue to prosper him. Yet in these words, God reaffirms his promise to David to bring forth an offspring who will sit on his throne after him. While David's son, Solomon, would immediately sit on the throne after him, it would be the kingdom of the coming Christ that would be established forever.*

***The Prophecy** - ⁸“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel.*

“ ‘The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: ¹²When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³**He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son.** When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’ ”

Isaiah 11:1-5

The Background - This prophecy comes around 700BC, 300 years after the prosperous reign of King David. The nation of Israel had since then been led by ungodly kings, ravaged by the Assyrian empire, and God's people were long in suffering. But through the prophet Isaiah the Lord brings words of comfort to his people. Isaiah proclaims a time when God will save his people, putting over them a righteous King and Savior, one who will judge the wicked but gather his people safely to himself.

***The Prophecy - ¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.***

²The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,

or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,

with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

⁵Righteousness will be his belt

and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

Hymn CW #343

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Jeremiah 23:1–6

***The Background** - This prophecy comes around 620BC, just before the Lord would raise up the Babylonians to bestow his punishment upon Israel for the great ungodliness and wickedness of their kings and people. When the nation of Babylon would conquer Israel in 597BC, the line of Israel's kings would come to an end. Yet God in his mercy, through the prophet Jeremiah proclaims a time of deliverance and restoration. Not only would there be a day when God would once again settle his people back in their homeland, but the line of King David would be restored and then brought to it's fulfillment when a righteous King and Savior would one day come and reign over his people eternally.*

***The Prophecy** - ¹“Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the Lord. ²Therefore this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done.”*

⁵“The days are coming,” declares the Lord,

**“when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.**

**⁶In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.**

**This is the name by which he will be called:
The Lord Our Righteous Savior.**

Isaiah 7:10–14

***The Background** - This prophecy comes during the reign of Judah's wicked king, King Ahaz around 730BC. Ahaz's constant involvement in idol worship and pagan divination had caused him to turn away from the Lord. Yet, when the nation of Assyria threatened their attack, Isaiah called Ahaz to repent and turn to the Lord that his nation might be saved, but Ahaz refused. Even when Isaiah told Ahaz to ask for a sign of the Lord's power that Ahaz might know the Lord is still with his people, Ahaz still refused. It was then Isaiah proclaimed the power of God in the greatest sign that would ever be given. Proclaiming the miracle of a virgin birth, a sign that would ultimately be fulfilled as the Virgin Mary gave birth to the Son of God, calling him "Immanuel," God with us.*

***The Prophecy** - ¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."*

¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test."

*¹³Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: **The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.***

Hymn CW #345

"Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"

Micah 5:1–4

***The Background** - This prophecy comes around 730BC as the prophet Micah is sent by the Lord to preach a case of judgment upon Israel's southern kingdom of Judah. God's people had become socially corrupt and spiritually bankrupt. As a result, God enacted his punishment through the nation of Assyria, who ravaged their land leaving the people in deep despair. At a time when thought all was going to be destroyed and left desolate, Micah comes with a word of hope and new life. Micah proclaims out of the town of Bethlehem, the town of David, a new ruler would be born, one who would arise and usher in a time of deliverance and peace.*

***The Prophecy** - ²“**But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,**
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”*

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

Psalm 72:7–14

***The Background** - Psalm 72 is a song praise written by King Solomon, King David's son. Not only did the Lord bless Solomon with great wisdom but also with great riches and wealth. However, Solomon knew no matter how much wisdom, power, or riches he had as king, there is only One who has all wisdom, riches, and power and He alone is deserving of all praise. As Solomon describes the praise and glory due to God alone, he pictures a King who before him all nations, from far and near, will come, bow down in worship, and bring their gifts. A picture of the wise men coming from afar, bringing their gifts, and falling in worship before the newborn King.*

***The Prophecy** - ⁷In his days may the righteous flourish
and prosperity abound till the moon is no more.*

⁸May he rule from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

⁹May the desert tribes bow before him
and his enemies lick the dust.

¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores
bring tribute to him.**

**May the kings of Sheba and Seba
present him gifts.**

¹¹**May all kings bow down to him
and all nations serve him.**

Hymn CW #330

“Peace Came to Earth”

Devotion: Isaiah 9:1-9

***The Background** - Even though Ahaz rejected the Lord and the Assyrians attacked and conquered, still the Lord did not abandon his people. Even though the Israelites would endure a time of great despair and darkness, the prophet Isaiah proclaims a day of light, a new dawn when God's people would once again rejoice. Not only would God deliver his people out from under Assyrian bondage and rule, but Isaiah looks ahead to the coming Savior who would one day deliver his people from the bondage of their sins and establish his eternal kingdom for the forever joy and peace of his people.*

***The Prophecy** - ¹Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. ²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Light Has Come!

Hymn CW #356

“God Rest You Merry, Gentleman”

Offering

Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Luke 12:34) The members of Northdale Lutheran joyfully give our offerings to the LORD in response to the many ways he has blessed us. Online giving is now set up and available through our membership software entitled Breeze. You can give through Breeze two ways: 1) You can give by texting “Give” to (813) 652-0408. 2). You can go to <https://northdale.breezechms.com/give/online>.

Advent Prayer

Hymn CW #340

“Away in a Manger”

