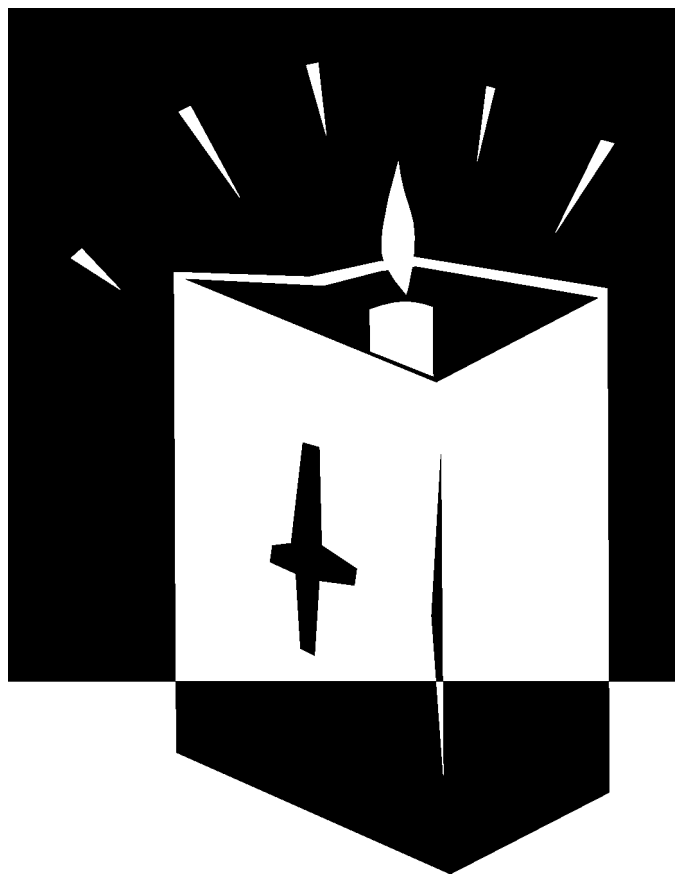


Watch, Wait, Wonder, and Worship: A Midweek Series for Advent



Opening

Week 4

To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, **be glory forever and ever.**

DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God,

that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

**Praise to the blest and holy Trinity, one God,
who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.**

Alleluia.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Oh, come, let us worship and praise.

Psalm Week 4 – 146

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
² I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.
³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
⁴ When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.
⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD their God,
⁶ who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets the prisoners free;
⁸ the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.
⁹ The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰ The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the LORD!

Blessed indeed are they who put their trust in you, O God, our sure rock and refuge. Guard us from giving to any other the allegiance that belongs only to you. Shine upon us with the brightness of your light, that we may love you with a pure heart and praise you forever; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,
but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

GOSPEL CANTICLE

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

**Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

**Through your holy prophets,
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us,
to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

**This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

**And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us**

Luke 1:26-44

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"^[c] ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[d] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

Reflection Week 4

What word, image, or phrase stands out for you in this reading?

The angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God." Where might you leave fear behind?

How does worship of God give you clarity of vision?

How will you magnify the Lord today?

Where has God lifted up the lowly, filled the hungry, and helped with mercy?

Prayer Week 4

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

May we, with Mary, sing your praises and magnify your name.

As we worship, renew our vision that we may do your will.

In your name we pray, **Amen.**

Prayers

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray.

A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . .

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

Other thanksgivings may be added.

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world . . .

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .

for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

Other prayers may be added.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep we may rest in peace. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

Even as we wait, watch, wonder and worship, **God is with us.**

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