

Music Today

Terrie Sanchez

AS WE GATHER

Today we consider Jesse's tree, that is, his family tree. His son David kept faithful to God, but succeeding generations wandered away, until only a stump remained. From that stump, a Branch would come: our Lord Jesus, who fulfills all ancient promises. Each week, we hear the story of several ancestors of Jesus - Each story showing God's plan of salvation and how He guided humanity to prepare for His coming. The tradition of the Jesse Tree dates back to the Middle Ages, and derives its name from Isaiah 11:1, "Then a shoot will spring from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit." Jesse is the father of King David, and from the family line of David, our Savior came. Today, come and see YOUR place in God's family tree!

Gathering Song An Advent Carol

Welcome & Invocation

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Opening Song What Hope! An Eden Prophesied LSB 342



1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da - vid's line,  
3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

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Confession and Forgiveness (Psalm 80:19; Isaiah 61:1)

Pastor: As God's people today, we confess our brokenness and ask to be restored into a right relationship into our Lord's family.

People: **Heavenly Father, we confess that we are bound to sin and cannot free ourselves. Like Adam in the beginning, we have "eaten forbidden fruit" in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We have not produced spiritual fruit in living the new life of faith You have won for us. We have acted as if we are not part of your family. For the sake of Jesus' sacrifice on the tree of the cross, grant us Your mercy.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O almighty God, we come before you today, remembering your ancient words: *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse. And from His roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

Long before Jesus was born you gave life to a man named Jesse, whose son came Your promised King, David. And from David, you fulfilled your promise of a Savior, your Son Jesus Christ. Dear God, as members of your family today, we thank you that you have a plan for each of us in these last days. Help us to be patient as we wait for Jesus again.

**People: Amen.**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Pastor: On the four Sundays in Advent, we light a new candle each week. We mark the four candles with these four words: hope, peace, joy, and love. The circular wreath of evergreen branches reminds us of the eternal nature of our Lord God, and that He gives the promise of eternal life for all who believe, just as a circle is unending, and an evergreen lives through winter. The blue colors of the 3 candles remind us of the royalty of Jesus, and how He welcomes us into His Kingdom.

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

**People: We wait for the Lord, and in His Word we rest.**

### **First Reading**

*Genesis 12:1-7; 15:1-6*

<sup>1</sup>Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup>And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**

*Genesis 17:1-8; 15-21*

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, <sup>2</sup>that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>8</sup>And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

<sup>15</sup>And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover, I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." <sup>17</sup>Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" <sup>18</sup>And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before you!" <sup>19</sup>God said, "No, but Sarah your

wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. <sup>20</sup>As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. <sup>21</sup>But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year.”

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Third Reading**

*Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-12*

<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>For by it the people of old received their commendation. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Song of the Day Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming LSB 359**



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry  
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

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**Sermon**

**The Jesse Tree: Abraham**

*Pastor Aaron Boerst*

**Creed – Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the Church**

Pastor: Rejoicing in the hope of our Savior's appearing, let us pray together, saying,

**People: Come, Lord Jesus!**

Pastor: In thanksgiving for every man and woman who have been an example of faith to us, and who pointed us to Christ. May the Lord use us as an example until He comes again:

**People: Come, Lord Jesus!**

Pastor: For the Church, as we wait with eager expectation for the coming of Jesus once again, who rescues us from our sin and the evil in the world.:

**People: Come, Lord Jesus!**

Pastor: For our Christian mission, that we bring glory to God and healing to many people through our work produced by faith, our labor prompted by love, and our endurance inspired by hope:

**People: Come, Lord Jesus!**

Pastor: Hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

***Local concerns may be added by congregational elder here.***

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### **Sharing the Peace**

#### **Offering Give Thanks LSB 806**

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich,"

Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich,"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks, give thanks.

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### **Presentation of Gifts**

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [*Psalm 145:15, James 1:17*]

**People:** **Amen.**

### **Holy Communion**

#### **Preface**

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**The Words of Our Lord** [*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*]

#### **Proclamation of Christ**

**Pastor:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. [*1 Cor. 11:26*]

**People:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** [*Revelation 22:20*]

#### **Lord's Prayer** [*Matthew 6:9–13*]

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**People:** **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.**

#### **Distribution**

**Joyous Light**

## Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus LSB338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

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## Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.  
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The LORD look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

People: Amen.

## Announcements

## Sending Song O Come, O Come Emmanuel LSB 357 vv1,2,4



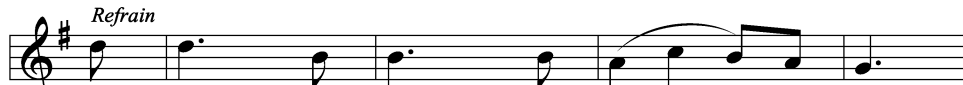
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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