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# THE ORDER OF VESPERS



**DECEMBER 2, 2020**

**LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK - PAGE 229**  
**CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**REDLANDS, CA**

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# MIDWEEK ADVENT 1

## THE INCARNATION AND THE PAST



THE PSALMODY ~ *Psalm 111 (antiphon v.9)*

P: He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant for- | ever.\*  
Holy and awesome | is his name!



**C: Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my | whole heart,\*  
in the company of the upright, in the congre- | gation.**

P: Great are the works | of the Lord,\*  
studied by all who de- | light in them.

**C: Full splendor and majesty | is his work,\*  
and his righteousness endures for- | ever.**

P: He has caused his wondrous works to be re- | membered;\*  
the Lord is gracious and | merciful.

**C: He provides food for those who | fear him;\*  
he remembers his covenant for- | ever.**

P: He has shown his people the power | of his works,\*  
in giving them the inheritance of the | nations.

**C: The works of his hands are faith- | ful and just;\*  
all his precepts are | trustworthy;**

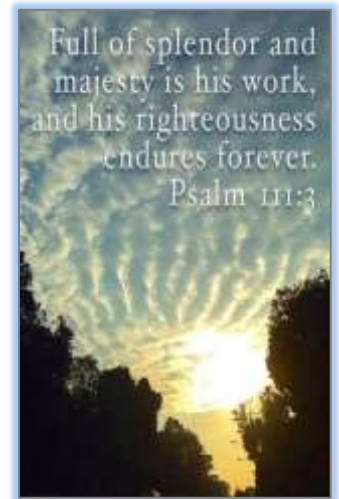
P: they are established forever and | ever,\*  
to be performed with faithfulness and up- | rightness.

**C: He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant for- | ever.\*  
Holy and awesome | is his name!**

P: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good under- | standing.\*  
His praise endures for- | ever!

**ALL: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

P: He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded his covenant for- | ever.\*  
Holy and awesome | is his name.



THE OFFICE HYMN:

**CHRIST, THE WORD OF GOD INCARNATE ..... 540**

THE READINGS FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

**THE FIRST READING: REVELATION 1:1-8**

*After the reading*

**P:** O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

**THE SECOND READING: JOHN 8:48-59**

*After the reading*

**P:** O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

THE RESPONSORY (LSB page 230 for Advent)

THE SERMON

THE MAGNIFICAT – SONG OF MARY

PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION HYMN:

**LORD JESUS CHRIST, WITH US ABIDE ..... 585**



INVITING ALL LADIES of CTK

The Women’s Christmas on Tuesday, December 8, at 11:30am at the Tartan of Redlands, 24 E. Redlands Blvd. If you would like to attend, or want more information, please contact Alise Smith at 909-800-4495 by this Sunday, December 6. The cost is \$20.



WASSAIL PARTY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT 5PM-8PM

If you haven’t signed up yet, please do so we know how many folks are coming the party. The sign up board is in the narthex. Thank you.



WE ARE GOING CHRISTMAS CAROLING ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 6:00PM

EVERYONE is INVITED!! We will meet at CTK to van pool to our Christmas caroling destinations to sing in front of the homes for some of our shut-ins around Redlands.

Afterwards, we will return to CTK for pizza, cookies, and hot cocoa.



## 2020 Advent Theme

### ✘ THE PAST ✘ THE PRESENT ✘ THE FUTURE

God created time. “There was evening and there was morning, the first day” (Genesis 1:5). The Almighty is eternal and yet He created something which has a profound effect upon us. Time is a reality which surrounds us, a reality in which we exist and within which God Himself operates. Time and its passing are more than just the robotic elapse of moments – here for a brief “hello” followed by a cold and wretched “goodbye.” God uses time. God uses time to our advantage. That last statement is both profound and delightful. God uses time to our advantage by virtue of one supremely marvelous act: God entered time.

The Author and Craftsman of the structure of seconds and minutes and days, and weeks, and years entered the domain of the temporal by becoming as us, by being made man. The great “I AM” took up residence in the womb of the Virgin. Eternity brought His life into the domain of time and dwelled among us. The Son of God sanctified time by invading it, by being subject to it, by acting within it, by vesting it with His presence, by operating through it in order to bless us, save us, lay claim to us and bring us through it to our heavenly home. Time, for a Christian, is not empty. Time, for a Christian, contains the wonder of Christ’s once-for-all holy work.

Heraclitus, an ancient Greek philosopher, said: “You can never step into the same river twice.” His point, whether you accept it or not, is that the water, which is in essence the river

itself, is always moving and is never repeated. Time, whether you see it or not, has content; divine content. Time is a river that brings us Christ and His work. The time-river of Christ is always flowing over us and it is gloriously repetitive. Our moments and our days are lived within the construct that Christ Himself occupies. The Lord and His life have impacted the past, the present, and the future. The pivotal movement of this grace-laden occupation of time was when God became Man – what we call the “incarnation.”

This Advent we will assert the warmth of Christ’s presence within the structure of time and how that presence brings us the sweetest, the richest of gifts. Our lives as Christians are multi-faceted. The truth and substance of our faith inspires, provides direction, and breathes into us hope and joy and peace. Advent provides the necessary tonic for our souls. Now is precisely the time for our faith to take wing. The world is so confused. We are not. We are preparing to celebrate aright the most astounding event the world has ever known – the Birth of the Son of God. We prepare for Christmas by moving through Advent on our way to the sublime manger of the Infant King. Seeing the impact of the Incarnation on the past, the present, and the future will not only prepare us to celebrate Christmas with true joy but will enlarge our hearts. Advent lovingly calls to you – prepare the way, the Lord approaches.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>

**THE PRESENT**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

**THE FUTURE**

Join us for a soup/salad dinner preceding the Advent Vespers Services at 6pm.  
Please sign up on the board in the narthex to bring something to share.