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# THE ORDER OF VESPERS



**DECEMBER 1, 2021**

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

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## MIDWEEK ADVENT 1



# THE INCARNATION AND A SACRIFICIAL SPIRIT

THE PSALMODY ~ *Psalm 4 (antiphon v.5)*

P: Offer right sacri-| fices,\*  
and put your trust | in the LORD.



C: **Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!**  
**You have given me relief when I was | in distress.\***  
**Be gracious to me and | hear my prayer!**

P: O men, how long shall my honor be turned | into shame?\*

How long will you love vain words and seek | after lies?

C: **But know that the LORD has set apart the godly | for himself,\***  
**the LORD hears when I | call to him.**

P: Be angry, and | do not sin;\*

ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be | silent.

C: **Offer right sacri-| fices,\*,\***  
**and put your trust | in the LORD.**

P: There are many who say, “Who will show | us some good?\*

Lift up the light of your face upon us, | O Lord!”

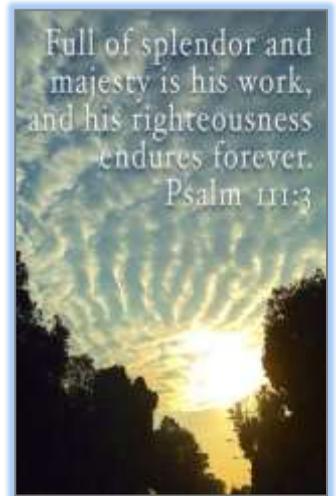
C: **You have put more joy | in my heart\***  
**than they have when their grain and | wine abound.**

P: In peace I will both lie | down and sleep,\*

for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in | safety.

**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: Offer right sacri-| fices,\*  
and put your trust | in the LORD.



THE OFFICE HYMN:

**WORD OF GOD, COME DOWN ON EARTH..... 545**

THE READINGS FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

**THE FIRST READING: ROMANS 12:1-13**

*After the reading*

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**THE SECOND READING: HEBREWS 1:1-14**

*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:

**ABIDE WITH ME ..... 878**



**Charles Baker Funeral**

The Funeral Service for our brother in Christ will be  
**Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 am.**

Please honor our shared confession of faith by attending this service where the driving force of our common life, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, will be proclaimed in Word and Song for the comfort and confidence of those who mourn the death of our dear friend.



**WASSAIL PARTY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12 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 MONDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 6:00PM EVERYONE IS INVITED!!** We will meet at CTK to van pool to our Christmas caroling destinations to sing. Afterwards, we will return to CTK for pizza, cookies, and hot chocolate.



**2021 Advent Theme**  
**THE INCARNATION AND YOUR NEIGHBOR**

The Incarnation is the wonder of God humbling Himself and taking on the form of a servant. Love for us prompted Him to leap off His royal throne and into the womb of the blessed Virgin. Eternal God took up our flesh and bone for the life of the world. He kept no “safe distance.” The Son of God immersed Himself into every aspect of our human condition. This changes things; us in particular. The Incarnation changes how we look at God, how we look at life and ourselves and our neighbor.

Love God above all things and love your neighbor as yourself. This is the summation of the law. What a poor life it is when we fail to love our neighbor. Our sinful nature would keep us in poverty – loving only those who love us, blessing only those who bless us, serving only those who serve us. Is that Christ’s love? Did He come to be served or to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many? (Matthew 20:28).

If the joy and content of Christmas is something that Christians hoard, something they claim for themselves and ignore the people around them, then that is actually antithetical to Christmas.

The astounding humility of a rude Bethlehem manger holding the Author of Creation engenders a new spirit within us. To be sure, we hold to a set of teachings, a body of doctrine that articulates the content of the faith we have received. But in the final analysis, we don’t “follow” a teaching; we follow the Teacher. He shares His life with us. Christmas radiates into us because the Lord Christ shares His life. It may sound odd, but the life He gives to us is for our neighbor. This year’s Advent Theme is a profound rediscovery of Lord and neighbor.

There is continuity between our Lord, you as believer, and your neighbor. Each of us has known how our lives have been enlarged by the Lordship of Jesus. He holds us close. He gives us more than what we could ever know apart from Him. His Spirit, alive in us, moves us to be as He is. Our neighbor is the beneficiary of Christ’s work in us. It is time to celebrate and act on this truth with deliberate purpose. May we embrace His Spirit this Advent and come together to prepare to celebrate His birth and His return, with hearts that are full.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>

**FORGIVING SPIRIT**

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.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

**HUMBLE SPIRIT**

