

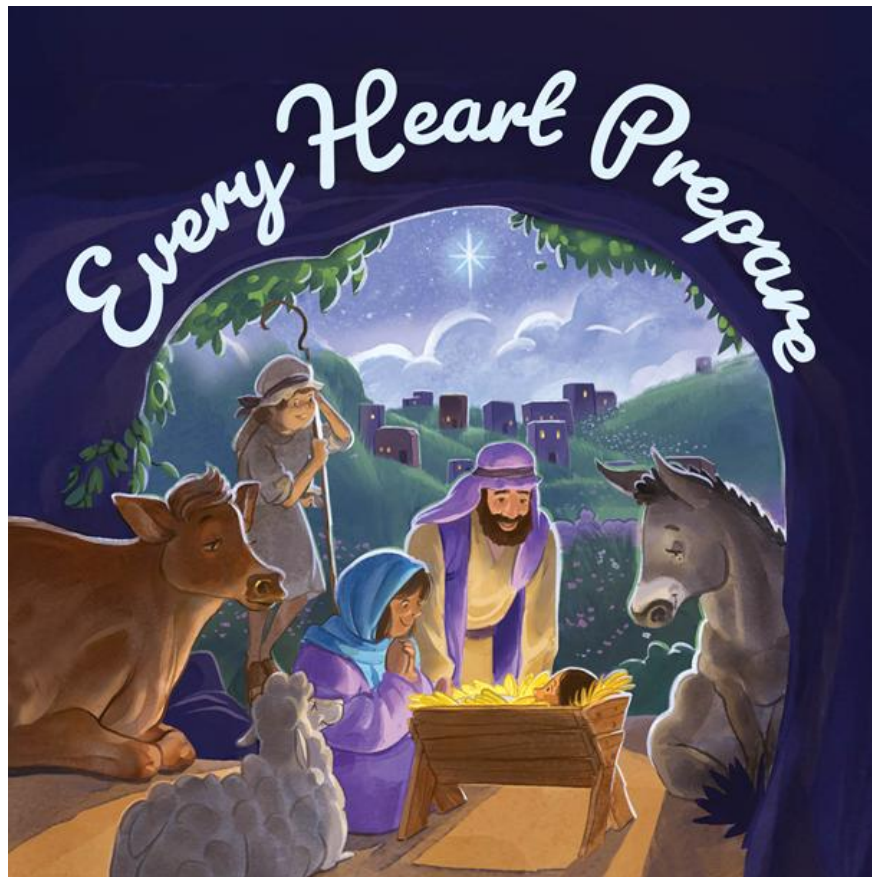
Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Beulah, North Dakota

December 10, 2025

Wednesday in Advent 2



*Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Psalm 24:7*

VESPERS

LIGHTS

“Prepare!” is often the watchword of the season as the world gets ready for another celebration of Christmas. A basic part of any preparation is decoration. We see decorations everywhere this time of year. The world may not comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, but even secular preparations use many of the same decorations beloved by Christians – something we shouldn’t mind at all, because these decorations point us to Christ. This year, as we look forward again to the coming of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the love, peace, joy, and hope He comes to bring us.

Tonight, we focus on lights. You see them everywhere this time of year. Some neighborhoods even compete, and tourist destinations spend millions on attractive light displays. Like evergreens, this is something nonreligious people do this time of year without appreciating their true significance. Yet we know that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12). He came to restore righteousness to the world. This restoration continues to unfold through the ministry He has entrusted to His church. As Isaiah comforted us, *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light* (9:2). We gather this evening to bask in the light of Jesus that His Word would have its way with us and so reflect His saving light into the darkness that remains in our world.

Opening Sentences

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
make haste to help me, O Lord.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.**

† PSALMODY †

Psalm 118:15-29 (antiphon: v. 27)

The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the righteous:

**“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,
the right hand of the LORD exalts,
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”**

I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

The LORD has disciplined me severely,
but He has not given me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank You that You have answered me
and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Save us, we pray, O LORD!

O LORD, we pray, give us success!

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

You are my God, and I will give thanks to You;

You are my God; I will extol You.

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

for His steadfast love endures forever!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine upon us.

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar.

Hymn # 349 "Hark the Glad Sound"

Readings

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

After each reading,

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

O Lord, have mercy on us.

John 1:1-9

Thanks be to God.

Responsory for Advent

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Sermon: Lights

Canticle Hymn # 933 "My Soul Rejoices"

Offering

Kyrie

Lord, have mercy;

Christ have mercy;

Lord, have mercy.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Collects

O Lord, hear my prayer.

And let my cry come to You.

For eyes to behold the Father's hand in all creation, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For awareness of beauty and the living traditions of the church that bring Christ to our eyes through arts and crafts, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That we may see the signs of Christ's return even as we celebrate His birth, and encourage one another all the more as we see the Day drawing near, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That we may be living testimonies of new life in Christ through our loving service to our neighbor—both in word and in deed, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That we may be thankful for the bountiful harvest we enjoy amid the many festivities of this season, and be generous to the poor, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That we may love one another as God so loved us, forgive one another, and work together in the unity we have in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

That we may not be lured into temptation or despair or be distracted by the false Christmases around us, but always hold the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit; one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord of light and life, You came into our world to remove sin and restore us to righteousness. Shine Your light anew into our hearts and cleanse us from all the deceiving evils that lurk within them, that we may live without fear of this world but joyfully anticipate Your glorious return; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Additional Collets of intercession and thanksgiving

Father of lights, every good and perfect gift comes from You. Thank You for sending Your Son to bring the light of life into the world and shining it into our hearts through the Gospel. Give us Your Spirit to hold us fast as we walk through the dark places that remain in our world. Grant that our faith not grown dim but, by Your grace, glow in us through our final journey—that we may radiate Your goodness and glory each day and many may join us in Your light and also walk with You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benedicamus

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Benediction

The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Hymn # 357 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (st. 1, 6)