

**Advent Midweek 2
Be Born In Us Today
Tonight's Theme: Bringing Renewal
December 7, 2022**

THEME VERSE:

*They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31*

OPENING HYMN No. 344 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (vss. 1,3,4,5)

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings Glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge and our great reward;
Without Thy grace we waste away Like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

**Lay on the sick Thy healing hand And make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of Thy face Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.**

**All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit, evermore.**

INVOCATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

L: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. (*The 1st and 2nd candles of the Advent Wreath are lit.*)

L: We light the second candle on the Advent wreath to celebrate the renewal of our lives through faith in Christ Jesus. The apostle Paul writes, "We were buried therefore with [Christ] by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

C: Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. You were born among us to bring us new life.

L: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:2).

C: Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Renew our hearts and minds in the power of the Holy Spirit so that we might serve you by serving others.

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

L: Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, we confess to you that we do not always live in the newness of life that is ours in Jesus. We fall back into our selfish ways. We do not love others as we should. Instead of following your will, we seek to conform our lives to the world's temptations. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Renew and restore us.

L: God had mercy on us and sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus took our sins onto himself and suffered and died on the cross for us. O what grace God has given us to declare that our sins are forgiven on account of Christ, and thus they are; in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: Help us, Lord, to live in newness of life. Lead us to seek your will so that we might do what is good, acceptable and perfect in your sight.

HYMN No. 361 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 4)

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty God, when the time was right, you fulfilled your promise and sent your Son to be our Savior. Even his holy name—Jesus—means that he came to save his people from their sins. Through faith in our crucified and risen Lord, we have forgiveness for our sins and the gift of eternal life. We are buried with him in Baptism and raised to walk with him in newness of life. Help us, in that new life, to walk in love as Jesus did and to serve you by serving others. When we grow faint and weary in our walk of faith, lift us up and renew our strength in the power of the Holy Spirit. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE "Jesus, Strong and Kind" CityAlight

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 40:21-31

Do you not know? Do you not hear?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;
who brings princes to nothing,
and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows on them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?
He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name;
by the greatness of his might
and because he is strong in power,
not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 1:7-10

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-25

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

**“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).**

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” (Tune: 527 LSB – Angel’s Story)

**O Lord, how shall I meet you, How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, My hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly All that may please you best.**

I lay in fetters, groaning; You came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning; You came to honor me.
A glorious crown you give me, A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me As earthly riches fly.

Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Cannot His Love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing Eternal life in heav'n.

SERMON "Bringing Renewal" Seminarian Matt Martin

OFFERING "Offering" (video)

PRAYERS

L: Lord and Savior, hear our prayers on behalf of those who are suffering through illness or enduring grief and loss. Renew and strengthen them in faith through the promises of your holy Word. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C: Be born in us today. Lead us, as brothers and sisters in Christ, to serve one another in love and to bring comfort and hope to those in need.

L: Lord and Savior, in Baptism we were united to you in your death, buried with you and raised to new life. Through faith in your name, we have forgiveness and eternal life. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C: Be born in us today. Conform our hearts and minds to your will so that by our thoughts, words and actions we glorify your holy name.

L: Lord and Savior, you are ever watchful and caring, and you are present with us at all times. When we grow faint and weary in faith, forgive us and renew us according to the promises of your Word. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C: Be born in us today. Refresh us through your forgiveness and strengthen our faith so that we might serve others in love.

L: Holy Savior, Lord of all nations, hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

L: Seeking renewal of life in Christ, we pray as He has taught us saying:

All: 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.**

BLESSING OF THE LORD (Responsive)

P “Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;

C They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:30-31).

P “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

HYMN No. 338 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart.**

**Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

SENDING

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

Post Worship Song: “Emmanuel God With Us” Chris Tomlin