



COSMIC CHRISTMAS

ADVENT MIDWEEK MEDITATION • DECEMBER 18, 2024

Current Series: Cosmic Christmas

We're used to Christmas cards and nativity scenes that feature adoring shepherds, gentle animals, and a serene family huddled around a manger. We sing lines like "all is calm, all is bright," and "no crying he makes" to set the mood for our celebration. But what if the first Christmas night wasn't so silent after all? What if all the powers of hell awoke in the darkness to oppose the coming King of light? What if an ancient dragon put in motion a plot to destroy everything God had planned? This Advent season, we'll pull back the veil to see the significance of Christmas on a cosmic level and rejoice in God's salvation through Jesus.

Today's Worship: The Woman's Deliverance

In John's vision, the defeated dragon turns his fury on the woman. It chases and threatens her, but out of nowhere she is whisked away on eagle's wings to a place the dragon cannot touch her. Is the dragon still raging today? Where is this place of safety? Is there room for us there? And what does this all have to do with Christmas?

Acknowledgments

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BULLETIN SPONSOR: Darlene Poehler in memory of loved ones

Evening Prayer from Christian Worship

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Gathering Hymn

325 My Soul in Stillness Waits



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,
2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our spir - its;
3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with - in us,
4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil-grim-age;



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the
our thirst-y hearts are yearn-ing for your Word; come, make us
and in your ad - vent draw us all to you, our hope re -
we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to



hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.
whole, be com-fort to our hearts.
born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.
us the path-way of your peace.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Tune: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us, and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. By your Word keep our faith burning brightly, that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Cantor: 1 My dwelling place is God Most High;
 my refuge and my fortress.
 When plague and pestilence draw nigh,
 I'm hidden in his presence.
 When terrors fall and arrows fly,
 his shield will be my safety;
 when stones across my pathway lie,
 on angels' wings I'm carried. (to v. 2)

Congregation: 2 My dwelling place is God Most High;
 a present help in danger.
 I rest secure in love's pure light,
 beneath my Master's favor.
 He freed me from the fowler's snare,
 where sin and shame had bound me;
 deceived, I'd made my refuge there,
 till fearless he came for me. *Refrain*

Refrain

Won - der - ful, pow - er - ful, my hope and my de - fend - er.



Might - y God, Em - man - u - el; my dwell - ing place for - ev - er.

Congregation: 3 My dwelling place is God Most High;
 I'll never seek another.
 For I am his and he is mine;
 my heart he'll keep forever.
 I know the name on whom I call;
 he promises to answer.
 With life he satisfies my soul,
 and crowns me with his pleasure. *Refrain x2 (second time, repeat last line)*

Text: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Kelly Minter, Chris Eaton, Stuart Townend

Tune: Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Kelly Minter, Chris Eaton, Stuart Townend

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Psalm Prayer

Lord Jesus, because you crushed the head of the serpent, make us bold to face all the challenges of life. With you at our side, no one can harm us. With your angels standing guard over us, no danger can overcome us. Help us triumph in every temptation, and show us your salvation.

Amen.

Advent Meditation

Revelation 12:13-17

¹³When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the wilderness, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach. ¹⁵Then from his mouth the serpent spewed water like a river, to overtake the woman and sweep her away with the torrent. ¹⁶But the earth helped the woman by opening its mouth and swallowing the river that the dragon had spewed out of his mouth. ¹⁷Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring—those who keep God's commands and hold fast their testimony about Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Offering

The members of Trinity Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and throughout the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

*At this time, we ask both members and guests to fill out the **friendship register** found at the end of each pew. When you've written your information, please pass it to the next person until everyone has had a chance to sign it. Thank you for helping us serve you with the gospel!*

Stand

Prayer

Abide with us, Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over. Abide with us and with your whole Church. Abide with us in the evening of the day, in the evening of life, in the evening of the world. Abide with us in your grace and goodness, in your holy Word and sacrament, in your comfort and blessing. Abide with us when we are overcome by the night of sorrow and fear, by the night of doubt and affliction, by the night of bitter death. Abide with us and with all your people in time and in eternity.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

CW 230

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de -
liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the
pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Tune: Dale A. Witte

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Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Blessing

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

314 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Jessica Menk has placed Christmas Cards in the display case for \$5/box. Please let her know if there are any other types of cards you would like to see in there. She would be happy to accommodate any requests.

CHRISTMAS INVITATIONS: Did you know? The Christmas holiday is the time of year when, statistically speaking, an invitation to worship is most likely to be effective. **Whom could you invite to worship with you this Christmas?** Add that person to your prayers this Advent season, then take a **flyer or postcard** from the “Take and Share” table to share our worship times with them. God bless your efforts to “spread the word concerning what has been told us about this child” (Luke 2:17)!

CHILDREN’S SERVICE: Join us this Sunday, December 22, at 9:00 am for our Children’s Service.



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