

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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Vicar Jacob Garrison

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Services are broadcast live on  
Sundays at 8 am and 10:30 am  
and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm

## Vespers

Vespers (LW, pp. 224-35), meaning “evening” (from the Latin *vespera*), was originally known as lucernarium, as candles or lamps were lit in the course of its liturgy. Vespers was originally part of the night office, but by the time of Saint Benedict, it was transferred to the early evening or late afternoon. In structure, Vespers is very similar to Matins as both services provide for the praise of God in psalmody, hymns, and canticles, the opportunity for the reading and proclamation of God’s Word, and space for the prayers of the faithful.

*“As human beings learn to talk by listening to others around them, so liturgical prayer must be learned by listening to the “Our Father,” to the Word addressed to us, and to the company of the family of God among whom we live. Where that lively and life-giving Word is received in the heart of faith, the prayer that is “conversation with God” happens.”— Dr. Ken Korby*

## Advent Vespers—Children’s Program Gaudate

December 20, 2023

**Introit** (*Ps. 71:14-18; antiphon: Phil. 4:4*)



Rejoice in the Lord | always; \*  
again I will | say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\*  
The Lord | is at hand.

LORD, you were favorable | to your land; \*  
you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your | people; \*  
you covered | all their sin.

Will you not revive | us again, \*  
that your people may re- | joice in you?

Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak, \*  
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them

not turn back to | folly.

**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.**

Rejoice in the Lord | always; \*  
again I will | say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.\*  
The Lord | is at hand.

## Collect of the Day

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## ORDER OF VESPERS

### LSB 229

Prelude

**Opening Hymn** ..... LSB 337

*Children sing vv. 1 & 4*

Opening Versicles, Advent Ascription  
of Praise\* ..... LSB 229

Introit\*—*See Propers*

**Office Hymn** ..... LSB 335

*Children sing vv. 1 & 2*

Scripture Readings (*on back*):

Old Testament.....Isaiah 40:1-11

**Hymn**.....LSB 376

*Children sing vv. 1 & 3*

Epistle..... 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

**Hymn**.....LSB 374

*Children sing vv. 1 & 2*

Gospel..... Matthew 11:2-11

Advent Responsory ..... LSB 230

Sermon ....*Pastor Thomas Goodroad*

**Canticle\*** ..... LSB 372

*Children sing vv. 1, 2, & 3*

Offering

Kyrie\* ..... LSB 233

Lord’s Prayer\* ..... LSB 233

Collects\* ..... LSB 233

Prayers\* ..... LSB 233

Benedicamus\* ..... LSB 234

Benediction\* ..... LSB 234

**Closing Hymn** ..... LSB 348

*Children sing vv. 1 & 2*

Postlude

\*Please Stand

## Hymns for today—

### OPENING HYMN

**LSB 337** .....The Night Will  
Soon Be Ending

*Children sing stanzas 1 & 4*

### OFFICE HYMN

**LSB 335** .... O Bride of Christ,  
Rejoice

*Children sing stanzas 1 & 2*

### HYMN

**LSB 376** .....Once in Royal  
David's City

*Children sing stanzas 1 & 3*

### HYMN AFTER EPISTLE

**LSB 374** .... Gentle Mary Laid  
Her Child

*Children sing stanzas 1 & 2*

### CANTICLE

**LSB 372** ..... O Jesus Christ,  
Thy Manger Is

*Children sing stanzas 1, 2, & 3*

### CLOSING HYMN

**LSB 348** ....The King Shall  
Come When Morning Dawns

*Children sing stanzas 1 & 2*

### Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1—11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" <sup>10</sup>Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will tend his flock like a shepherd he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom and gently lead those that are with young.

### Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:1—5

<sup>1</sup>This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. <sup>2</sup>Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. <sup>3</sup>But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. <sup>4</sup>I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not

thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. <sup>5</sup>Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

### Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2—11

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." <sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." <sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

*Created from Lutheran Service Builder  
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**Missouri Synod**

Order of Vespers

Children's Advent Program

Gaudate

December 20, 2023