

# THE JESSE TREE



Advent worship  
at Calvary

December 17, 2025  
11:15 am. and 7:00 p.m.

Welcome to this special Advent series, "The Jesse Tree: Rooted in Promise." Over the next few weeks, we will be journeying through the rich promises of God made to Adam, Abraham, and David. These promises, recorded in Scripture, lead us directly to the fulfillment of God's salvation plan in Jesus Christ, our Savior. In many ways, this Advent series echoes the themes of the *Jesse Tree*—a powerful tradition that traces the story of God's promises through key figures in the Bible, from Adam and Eve to the birth of Christ.

The *Jesse Tree* tradition itself has been a cherished part of the Christian faith, especially during the Advent season. It is a way of connecting the promises of God throughout the Old and New Testaments to the coming of the Savior. The tree's name is derived from Isaiah 11:1, where the prophet speaks of a "shoot" coming from the "stump of Jesse"—the father of King David—and pointing forward to the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ.

In this series, we are diving deep into the very roots of the Jesse Tree, starting with the foundational promise to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:15, followed by the promise to Abraham and the promise to David, each a stepping stone leading to the fulfillment of God's salvation in Christ.

While we will explore these key biblical promises in this series, we also invite you to connect further with the *Jesse Tree* tradition through our children's Christmas service. In this service, we will be reflecting on the same biblical promises through the eyes of our children, featuring beautiful symbols and readings that bring to life the story of God's faithful love.

We encourage you to attend this special service, where the children will recite Scripture and songs that highlight the story of God's promises—culminating in the glory of Christ's birth. In addition, we have prepared materials to enhance your journey with the *Jesse Tree* throughout Advent, including a devotion booklet and a coloring book. These resources offer a wonderful way to help your family engage with the promises of God as you prepare for the coming of Christ. These materials are available for you today, so take one home with you and join in the Advent celebration as we look forward to Christ's birth. Feel free to ask for additional copies of the devotional booklet and coloring book to share with your friends, family, or neighbors as you invite them to join in the season of Advent.



Let's walk together through this season of Advent, allowing the promises of God, woven through the lineage of the *Jesse Tree*, to deepen our faith and fill our hearts with joy as we wait for the coming of our Savior.

# THE PROMISE TO DAVID

2 SAMUEL 7:12-16

## OPENING HYMN

360 – Behold, a Branch Is Growing



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and  
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's  
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and  
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of  
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to  
where. True man, and yet true God, from sin and  
foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.  
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.  
death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

## INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## OPENING PRAYER

Lord God, we thank You for the promise You made to David, fulfilled in Your Son, Jesus Christ, the eternal King. By His death on the cross He has removed our guilt, and by His resurrection He has secured our place in His everlasting kingdom. As we journey through Advent, help us to trust in Your faithfulness, knowing that in Christ Your kingdom is already established and nothing can separate us from His love. Give us hope and patience as we await the day when His reign will be seen by all. Prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, our Savior and King. In His name we pray. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

2 Samuel 7:8-16

<sup>2</sup> SAMUEL 7:8 “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup>and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“‘The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup>When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. <sup>15</sup>But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’”



**ANTHEM** (evening service only)

Come, O Long Expected Jesus

*Sung by the Adult Choir*

*Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free;  
from our sins and fears release us; by your death on Calvary.  
Isreal's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

*Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;  
born to reign in us forever, now your gracious kingdom bring.  
By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by your all-sufficient merit, raise us to your glorious throne.*

*Rule in all; hope in all. Come, expected Jesus. Come.*

**CATECHETICAL READING**

Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer with Explanation

*The Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer, is an appropriate reading for this service because it echoes God's promise to establish David's eternal kingdom through his descendant. As we pray for Christ's kingdom to come, we long for the fulfillment of God's covenant with David, which is realized in Jesus, the eternal King. This prayer invites us to prepare for Christ's reign, both now in our hearts and in the world when He returns in glory..*

**Your kingdom come.**

*What does this mean?*

**God's kingdom certainly comes by itself even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may also come to us.**

*How does God's kingdom come?*

**God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives his Holy Spirit, so that by his grace we believe his holy Word and lead a godly life now on earth and forever in heaven.**

# HYMN

# 302 – Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a -



near! Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a  
King! Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread  
King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its  
bove. His rule is peace and free - dom and



lev - el road ap - pear! Then greet the King of  
gar - ments! Shout and sing! God's prom - ise will not  
trib - ute too should bring. All lands, bow down be -  
jus - tice, truth, and love. So let your praise be



glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
fore him! All na - tions, now a - dore him!  
sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Refrain*  
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

# SERMON

2 Samuel 7:12-16

## A KINGDOM THAT WILL NEVER END!

SONG (evening service only)

Creator of the Stars of Night

*Sung by the Adult Choir*

*Creator of the stars of night,  
Your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
We pray You, hear us when we call.*

*When this old world drew on toward night,  
You came, but not in splendor bright,  
Not as a monarch, but the child  
Of Mary, virgin, mother mild.*

*At Your great name, O Jesus, now  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
All things on earth with one accord,  
Like those in heav'n, shall call You Lord.*

*To God Creator, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be  
From age to age eternally.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Let us pray to the Lord, who promised to establish an eternal kingdom through the line of David, fulfilled in His Son, Jesus Christ, who has redeemed us and reigns as our Savior and King.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the promise You made to David, fulfilled in Jesus, the Son of David, who by His cross removed our guilt and by His resurrection opened His eternal kingdom to all believers. As we wait for His return, keep our hope anchored in His finished work and our citizenship secure in His reign.

Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we pray for the Church, that we may boldly proclaim the coming of Christ, our eternal King. Strengthen us to live as citizens of Your kingdom, reflecting Your

justice, mercy, and peace to the world around us. Through His Word and sacraments, let His reign be seen as He forgives sins, comforts the weary, and strengthens His people for eternal life.

Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we lift up those who are struggling with doubts or difficulties in their faith. Strengthen them with the hope of Your promises, especially the promise of Christ's reign of grace. May they find comfort in knowing that Jesus, the Son of David, has already conquered sin, death, and the devil, and that His kingdom is eternal.

Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Lord of the nations, we pray for all leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and righteousness in their roles, reflecting the reign of Christ in their leadership. Guide them to govern with wisdom and compassion, working for the good of all people. Remind them that all authority belongs to Christ, the risen King, and that lasting peace comes only through His cross.

Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we bring before You all those in need of healing, comfort, and peace. Especially in this season of waiting, help them to cling to the promise of Your Son, the Prince of Peace, who brings hope and restoration. Let them rest in the truth that Christ has secured their place in the resurrection and will wipe away every tear.

Lord, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We thank You, Lord, for Your eternal kingdom, already present in our hearts. Keep us steadfast in the joy of complete salvation and the certainty that our King is on the throne. Prepare us for the day He returns in glory to make all things new.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

We now offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, as we join to pray:

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**BENEDICTION:**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn His face toward you and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**

311 – Dawning Light of Our Salvation



1 Long in dark - ness Is - rael wan - dered; long in mor - tal  
 2 He shall raise a might - y Sav - ior; born of Da - vid's  
 3 Je - sus, Lord, and might - y Sav - ior, Da - vid's son and



shad - ows we walked in bond - age and self - pit - y, trod in  
 lin - eage, he comes in cov - 'nant love to claim us, from our  
 yet his King, dawn - ing light of our sal - va - tion, of your



paths of sin and grief. In the proph - ets' words he told us,  
 sins to set us free. Light to those who dwell in dark - ness,  
 sav - ing pow'r we sing! Stand, O lame, and dance, ye bro - ken;

*The hymn continues on the next page*



long the God of Is - rael spoke; he a - lone in strength would  
 life to those from death who flee, joy un - to the earth, and  
 know the Sav - ior's heal - ing grace. Come, O deaf, and hear him



save us from the hands of all our foes.  
 glad - ness, to your path - ways dawn - ing peace!  
 sing - ing; turn, O blind, be - hold his face!



Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed! Ev - 'ry moun - tain



be made plain! Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;



all cre - a - tion bend in praise!



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Hymn 360 - Behold, A Branch is Growing  
Text: German, 16th cent.; (sts. 1-3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925; (st. 4): John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, alt.  
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599  
Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn 302 - Prepare the Royal Highway  
Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.  
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714955  
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Hymn 311 - Dawning Light of Our Salvation  
Text: Wendell Kimbrough, b. 1983  
Tune: Bruce Benedict, b. 1980  
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Come, O Long-Expected Jesus  
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, and written in 1744 (PD).  
Tune *JEFFERSON*, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835 (PD).  
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Advent Supplication, *Creator of the Stars of Night*  
Latin hymn, 9<sup>th</sup> century, Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.  
Hal H. Hopson, Based on *CONDITOR ALME*, Sarum plainsong, Mode IV, 9<sup>th</sup> cent.  
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## HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2025

“Come Home for Christmas”

Nov. 29, 30

Advent 1

Regular schedule

December 3	Midweek Advent	11:15 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
December 6,7	Advent 2	Regular schedule
December 10	Midweek Advent	11:15 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
December 13,14	Advent 3	Regular schedule
	GROW Pre-school & K Children's Service	3:00 p.m.
December 17	Midweek Advent	11:15 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
December 19	Calvary School (Gr. 1-8) Children's Service	6:30 p.m.
December 20,21	Advent 4	Regular schedule
December 24	Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols	3:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Compline	11:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day Festival w/Lord's Supper	9:30 a.m.
December 27,28	Christmas 1	Regular schedule
December 31	New Year's Eve w/Lord's Supper	3:30 p.m.