

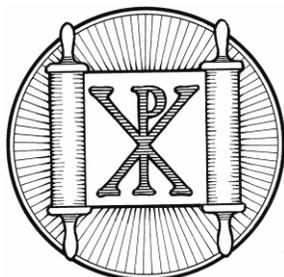
Advent Vespers



AD 2020, December 2

Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
41415 W. Nine Mile Road
Novi, Michigan 48375-4306
(248) 349-0565 www.GoodShepherdNovi.org
Good Shepherd is a member of the WELS (www.wels.net)

WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



We have gathered to meditate at Vespers. Vespers is an evening service, coming from one of the daily offices at which the Church meets to meditate upon God's Word. Our particular order is called Evening Prayer. In this service, our Triune God is pleased to serve us with his promises and mercy. Advent Vespers focus on the coming of the Messiah to forgive sins and to bring us into his eternal kingdom.

If you are visiting with us this evening, we ask you to sign our guest book by the church entrance. If you would like to learn more about the Evangelical Lutheran Church – its confession or its practice, please speak to the pastor. We hope you will join us again soon.

EVENING PRAYER – PAGE 54

It is a laudable custom to make the sign of the cross on yourself where you see the sign of the cross (+) in the order of service.

The congregation shall stand after the bell toll.

The Hymns	Chief Hymn	275 --	Blest Be the God of Israel
	After the Lord's Prayer	1 --	The Advent of Our King
	Closing Hymn	6 --	Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

Psalm of the Day Psalm 98 (page 103) *In Unison*

Psalm Prayer Lord God, our mighty Rock of salvation, give us such strength of faith that we may cling to you in every trouble and, armed with your strong Word, be preserved from every assault of Satan and his forces of evil.
Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Reading and the Seasonal Response have been printed on the opposite page.

The Sermon Luke 1:67-79
Sermon Text The Benedictus: Song of Zechariah
"Blessed be the God of Israel."

Intercessions

Intercessions that are requested prior to the bulletin's printing will be included in the bulletin. Requests may be made prior to the service as well.

LUKE 1:1-25

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

Scripture readings are from the English Standard Version.

Seasonal Response

Cantor: *The Lord will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Preacher— Pastor Thomas E. Schroeder
Organist — Jeanette Schneider

OFFERING -- The total of our offerings for Thanksgiving and mid-week Advent Vespers services has been designated for Huron Valley Lutheran High School, up to \$2,000.

Advent Vespers

*We prepare for the coming of the Savior
with repentance as we prayerfully, quietly, and eagerly await our Savior.*

Advent Hymns



December 2

The *Benedictus* – Song of Zechariah. (Luke 1:67-79)

December 9

The *Magnificat* – Song of Mary. (Luke 1:46-55)

December 16

The *Gloria in Excelsis* – Song of angels. (Luke 2:14)

**Join us on Wednesdays for Advent.
Vespers --7:00 PM**