

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

The shepherds heard the story proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of glory was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger found Him,
As angel heralds said.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
True Man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us,
And lightens every load.

O Savior, Child of Mary, who felt our human woe,
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know;
Bring us at length we pray, to the bright courts of Heaven,
And to the endless day!



We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

Third Sunday of Advent
Old Orchard Church
December 12, 2010—10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

Root of Jesse

Celebrating Our Messiah Jesus, Root of Jesse

Mary's Song

Blue homespun and the bend of my breast
keep warm this small hot naked star
fallen to my arms. (Rest...
you who have had so far
to come). Now nearness satisfies
the body of God sweetly. Quiet he lies
whose vigor hurled
a universe. He sleeps
whose eyelids have not closed before.
His breath (so slight it seems
no breath at all) once ruffled the dark deeps
to sprout a world.
Charmed by doves voices, the whisper of straw,
he dreams,
hearing no music from his other spheres.
Breath, mouth, ears, eyes
he is curtailed
who overflowed all skies,
all years.
Older than eternity, now he
is new. Now native to earth as I am, nailed
to my poor planet, caught that I might be free,
blind in my womb to know my darkness ended,
brought to this birth
for me to be new-born,
and for him to see me mended
I must see him torn.

—Luci Shaw



Scripture Readings

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 11:1-12

New Testament Lesson: Luke 1:5-45

Sermon Series on Ruth

“Ruth: The Immigrant Widow as Model of Faithfulness”

Ruth 1-4

Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching

True Foundation of David's Kingdom: The Glory and Power of Forgiveness

*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited
and redeemed his people* (Luke 1:68)

In His first advent God came in a cruel, thick, black cloud with fire, smoke, and thunder; with a great sound of trumpets, so fierce that the children of Israel were filled with fear and dread, and said to Moses (Exodus 20:19), **All that the Lord has spoken we will do. But you speak with us...let not God speak with us, or we will die.** At that time He gave them the Law. The Law is cruel; we do not like to hear it. The Law is such a terror to our reason that at times we fall into despair. It is so heavy a burden that the conscience knows not where to turn, or what to do.

Christ in His advent is not terrible like that, but meek; not fierce like God in the Old Testament, but meek and merciful like a human being; He does not come on the mountain, but in the city. On Sinai He came with terror, now He comes with meekness; there He was to be feared, there He came with thunder and lightning; here He comes with hymns of praise. There He came with the great sound of trumpets, here He comes weeping over the city of Jerusalem; there He came with fear, here He comes with consolation, joy, and love; there He spoke: **Whoever touches the mountain shall be surely put to death**, here He says: **Tell the daughter of Zion, her king comes to her.** Behold, find in this the difference between the Law and the Gospel, to wit, that the Law commands while the Gospel gives all things freely. The Law causes anger and hate [because it stirs up sin in us], but the Gospel gives grace.

At the first advent the children of Israel fled before the voice of God, but now our desire to hear it cannot be stilled, because it is so sweet. Therefore, when you are in anxiety and trouble, you should not run to Mount Sinai, that is to say, look to the Law for help, neither should you think that you yourselves have power to atone for your guilt, but rather should you look for help in Jerusalem, that is to say, in the Gospel which says: **Your sins are forgiven; go, and from now on sin no more** (Mark 2:5; John 8:11).

—Martin Luther in a Palm Sunday sermon from 1522.

