



Advent Vespers Devotional 2020

Friday, December 11
Savior of the Nations, Come
Stanzas 1 & 2

Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood,
but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh,
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

— Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546

O Saving God, who makes a home with us...
Even though I know my body is enlivened through breath,
I just feel like I'm just inhaling too much that is life-denying.
My cloth mask is no protection from breathing in the brokenness around me,
the troubled lives close to me or the crumbling society beyond.
It only muffles my responses.

Each week I try to bring that inhalation to you in worship,
laying before you with "kyrie eleisons" all that I have taken in during the week.
I join with my community in handing over the burdens of the world
to the One who bears all things.

And now, I thank you for those times –
just every once in a while, really –
when I get a whiff of you,
that "mystic Breath of God"
filling me with awareness that you are here...
for me, for us, for the sake of the whole world.

Tom Witt, Campus Ministry Interim Musician