



# Advent Vespers Devotional 2020

Sunday, December 13  
Savior of the Nations, Come  
Stanzas 3 & 4

Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—  
from his throne, a virgin mild!  
Very God, and Mary's son,  
eager now his race to run!

From God's heart the Savior speeds,  
back to God his pathway leads;  
out to vanquish death's command,  
back to reign at God's right hand.

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

Jesus is the savior of the nations, who can vanquish death with the breath of God. And yet, Jesus' own life experiences the shortness of breath that we all feel. Jesus' first earthly breath was taken in a manger among animals and a poor young couple. His last breath was through torture and government brutality, surrounded by other condemned people.

Yet, we believe that Jesus' journey starts and ends well past his earthly breath. Jesus' journey starts in the heart of God. His earthly experience through betrayal, sickness, and sin leads us back to God, giving us eternal life.

It is hard to breathe right now, and in so many ways, our breath is cut short. But our journey with Christ also leads us through sin and sickness back into the heart of God, where we can freely breathe the breath of God.

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