

Advent Evening Prayer

"Comfort, Comfort My People"

December 9, 2020

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Hymn: The Advent of Our King

LSB 331 sts. 1-2, 5-6



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him-self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

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Stand

Versicles (Advent)

L The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

L All those who await His appearance pray:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

L The whole creation pleads:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

- [L]** Joyous light of glory:
[C] of the immortal Father;
 heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.
 We have come to the setting of the sun,
 and we look to the evening light.
 We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:
 You are worthy of being praised
 with pure voices forever.
 O Son of God, O Giver of life:
 the universe proclaims Your glory.

Thanksgiving for Light

- [L]** We praise and thank You, O God, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, that You have enlightened us by revealing the Light that never fades. Night is falling, and day's allotted span draws to a close. The daylight which You created for our pleasure has fully satisfied us, and yet, of Your free gift, now the evening lights do not fail us. We praise You and glorify You through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord; through Him be glory, honor, and power to You in the Holy Spirit now and always and forever and ever.
- [C]** Amen.

Sit

Psalm 141

LSB 245



[C] Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.



[I] O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice



when I cry to You. **[C]** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.



II Set a watch be-fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.



I Let not my heart in-cline to an-y e-vil thing;



let me not be oc-cu-pied in wick-ed-ness with e-vil-do-ers.



II But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref-uge.



Strip me not of my life.

C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and



to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it; as it was in



the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,



the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

Psalm Prayer

L Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 85:1-13

P LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

C **You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.**

P You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

C **Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!**

P Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

C **Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?**

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

C **Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.**

P Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

C **Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

P Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

C **Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**

P Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

Office Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

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Readings From Holy Scripture

Isaiah 40:1–11

[L] A reading from Isaiah, the fortieth chapter.

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level,

and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry!"
 And I said, "What shall I cry?"
 All flesh is grass,
 and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
 when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
 surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
 but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good news;
 lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
 lift it up, fear not;
 say to the cities of Judah,
 "Behold your God!"

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
 behold, his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;
 he will carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead those that are with young.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

Response

LSB 247

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

G But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Sermon

Stand

Magnificat: My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933

1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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Sit

Offering

Litany

LSB 249

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

- L** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.**

The prayers then continue:

- L** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:
- C Alleluia.**
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

- L** Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:
- C To You, O Lord.**

Collect For Peace

- L** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

L Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:

C **Our Father who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Stand

Benedicamus

LSB 252

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 252

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

Hymn: All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

LSB 883 sts. 1–3



1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the
2 For - give me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that
3 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as

bles - ings of the light. Keep me, O keep me,
I this day have done, That with the world, my -
lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die that

King of kings, Be - neath Thine own al - might - y wings.
self, and Thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
so I may Rise glo - rious at the awe - full day.

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Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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