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**Advent 2
Midweek Service
December 7, 2022**

Evening Prayer (p. 243ff.)

The Pre-service Music, the Call to Worship & Welcome

The Opening Hymn: 348 “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau-ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.
Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth
Text and tune: Public domain

+Service of Light+

- P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**
P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C **and the day is almost over.**
P Let Your light scatter the darkness
C **and illumine Your Church.**
P 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.

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The Psalm: Psalm 63

P: O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

C: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

P: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

C: So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands.

P: My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

C: when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

P: for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

C: My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

P: But those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth;

C: they shall be given over to the power of the sword; they shall be a portion for jackals.

P: But the king shall rejoice in God; all who swear by him shall exult, for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P 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.

The Epistle Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

P A reading from Titus, chapter 2.

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Lesson: John 15:1–11

P A reading from John, chapter 15.

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in

the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."

- P** O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.
- C** **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

The Sermon Hymn: 602 "The Gifts Christ Freely Gives"

1 The gifts Christ free - ly gives He gives to you and me
 2 The gifts flow from the font Where He calls us His own;
 3 The gifts of grace and peace From ab - so - lu - tion flow;
 4 The gifts are there each day The ho - ly Word is read;

To be His Church, His bride, His cho - sen, saved and free!
 New life He gives that makes Us His and His a - lone.
 The pas - tor's words are Christ's For us to trust and know.
 God's chil - dren lis - ten, hear, Re - ceive, and they are fed.

Saints blest with these rich gifts Are chil - dren who pro - claim
 Here He for - gives our sins With wa - ter and His Word;
 For - give - ness that we need Is grant - ed to us there;
 Christ fills them with Him - self, Blest words that give them life,



That they were won by Christ And cling to His strong name.
The tri - une God Him - self Gives pow'r to call Him Lord.
The Lord of mer - cy sends Us forth in His blest care.
Re - stor - ing and re - fresh - ing Them for this world's strife.

5 The gifts are in the feast,
Gifts far more than we see;
Beneath the bread and wine
Is food from Calvary.
The body and the blood
Remove our ev'ry sin;
We leave His presence in
His peace, renewed again.

6 All glory to the One
Who lavishes such love;
The triune God in love
Assures our life above.
His means of grace for us
Are gifts He loves to give;
All thanks and praise for His
Great love by which we live!

Text: Richard C. Resch, 1947
Tune: Charles J. Dale, 1842–1912, alt.
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The Sermon

The Offering

A Hymn: 334 "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

- 5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
Cannot His love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by His grace.
He comes, for you procuring
The peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing
Eternal life in heav'n.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations
And blessed hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering,
And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
Text and tune: Public domain

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** 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.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For President Harrison and District President Davis, 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.**
- P** For President Biden and Governor Whitmer, 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.**
- P** 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.**
- P** 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.**

P 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.**

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C **Alleluia.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C **To You, O Lord.**

A Hymn: 342 "What Hope! An Eden Propesied"



1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da - vid's line,
3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

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Tune: Public domain

A Collect for Peace

P 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.

The Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

P Taught by our Lord and trusting 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.**

The Benedicamus

LSB 252

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The Benediction

LSB 252

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

C Amen.

The Closing Hymn: 887 “Now the Light Has Gone Away”



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;
3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;
4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
5 Thou, my best and kind - est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.
Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.
O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.
All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!
Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79, alt.
Tune: Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen, 1842, Kaiserswerth
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Our Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

- Sunday Advent Services – December 11 and 18 at 9:30 a.m.
- ISJ Academy Christmas Program – December 14 at 6:30 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Candlelight service with Communion at 7:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day service with Communion at 9:30 a.m.
- New Year's Day Service at 9:30 a.m.



All services will be livestreamed on Facebook Live.

NOTE: The church office will be closed from December 26 through December 30.