

Redeemer, come and open wide  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
O enter with Thy grace divine;  
Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on  
Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame  
We offer to Thy name.

### Opening:

*P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**C Amen.**

*P: Christ is coming soon. Alleluia!*

**C: We await His return and look for His coming.**

*P: O Lord, open my lips,*

**C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

*P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;*

**C: make haste to help me, O Lord. 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.**

### Hymn: “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

#### The Prayer of the Day

*P Hear our prayer, O God, our cry for mercy. As You graciously heard the prayers of Your Old Testament people and promised them a Savior from sin and death, so fill our hearts and lives with peace through the message of Your promise’s fulfillment in Jesus. In His name we come boldly to Your throne of grace.*

**C Amen.**

### A Responsive Psalmody ... Psalm 85:7-13

*P: Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,*

**C: and grant us your salvation.**

*P: I will listen to what God the LORD will say;*

**C: he promises peace to his people, his saints—but let them not return to folly.**

*P: Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,*

**C: that his glory may dwell in our land.**

*P: Love and faithfulness meet together;*

**C: righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

*P: Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,*

**C: and righteousness looks down from heaven.**

*P: The LORD will indeed give what is good,*

**C: and our land will yield its harvest.**

*P: Righteousness goes before him*

**C: and prepares the way for his steps.**

### Scripture lesson...Luke 1:57-80

#### Confession of Faith

(Explanation of Second Article)

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from**

the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn: “Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”

**Sermon ... Mark 9:7**

**Advent Directions:**  
*“Listen!”*

**Luther’s Evening Prayer**

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Hymn: “God Loves Me Dearly”

Prayer, Lord’s Prayer  
The Benediction

Hymn: “Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

# Advent Directions

A Series of Special Services  
for Advent

*December 16, 2020*

—Listen!—



**“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”**

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

Behold, the King of glory waits.

The King of kings is drawing near;

The Savior of the world is here.

Life and salvation He doth bring;

Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.

To God the Father raise

Your joyful songs of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart;

Make it a temple set apart

From earthly use for heav’n’s employ,

Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

So shall your Sov’ reign enter in

And new and nobler life begin.

To God alone be praise

For word and deed and grace!

