

Behold, Your King Comes!

A Series of Special Services
for Advent
December 13, 2023



—In Love—

“The Advent of Our King” (LSB 331:3-4)

*O Zion’s daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.*



*As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav’n to reign.*

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: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

C: the world and those who dwell in it!

P: Let the rivers clap their hands;

C: let the hills sing for joy together before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth.

P: He will judge the world with righteousness,

C: and the peoples with equity.

Scripture lesson...Luke 1:26-56 (EHV)

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 571:

“God Loved the World So That He Gave”

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.

P: Christ is coming soon. Alleluia!

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

Hymn 332: “Savior of the Nations, Come”

The Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, You remembered our greatest need by fulfilling Your promise to send us Your Son, who died and rose to deliver us from all sin, death, and the power of the devil. Comfort us with the preaching of the Gospel and fill us with unshakable faith in Your precious promises, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

A Responsive Psalmody ... Psalm 98:1-3, 7-9

P: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

C: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

P: The LORD has made known his salvation;

C: he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

P: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Sermon ... 1 John 4:7-12
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Offering
Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn 700: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Evening Prayer

I thank You, Father, for the night with its sleep, its rest from the labors and cares of the day. I thank You for Your assurance of forgiveness for the day now past, with all its failures and sins. I thank You for the joys You gave me and the peace from on high. I thank You for the moon and stars and the quiet hours of the darkness. May I sleep the sleep of the righteous; hear me in the holy name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

The Benediction

Hymn 887:
"Now the Light Has Gone Away"



P: Lord God, we thank You for this day of grace now drawing to a close. May Your Word keep our faith burning brightly. Come and bless us as we worship You: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and God of all comfort, we thank and praise You for the coming of Your Son Jesus Christ, the Light to lighten the gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.

As Your servants in Old Testament times looked with fervent longing for the coming of the Messiah, grant that we may eagerly and joyfully welcome Him, Jesus our Lord, into our hearts by faith, and thus be delivered by His might from the power of sin, death, and the devil.

Dear God, lead us by Your Spirit to an understanding of our great sinfulness and our need of repentance. Help us to hate evil and to love the good. Strengthen us against the temptations of all our adversaries. Incline our hearts to seek righteousness and holiness, so that we may serve and glorify You in every way.

Send out Your light to all corners of the earth, that men everywhere may know Your love in the gift of Your Son Jesus Christ, and join the multitude of Your people who say, *"Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest!"*

Bless all who are gathered here in Your house this night and sanctify them by Your Word. To those among us who are afflicted in any way, to those who are in sorrow, to those who are enduring trials, to those who may be in any necessity of body or spirit, grant strength, comfort, understanding, and patience. Let them feel the warmth of Your love, and give them peace and joy in the abiding promise of grace through Christ.

Grant us patience to wait for You and Your help which according to Your Word will come at just the right time. Give us faith to trust that nothing is too hard for You.

All these things we ask in the Name of Jesus our Lord, who came for our deliverance, died for our salvation, rose again for our justification, and ever lives to plead for us before Your Majesty on High. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.