

Behold, Your King Comes!

A Series of Special Services
for Advent
December 20, 2023



—In Power—

“The Advent of Our King” (LSB 331:5-6)

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



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

Opening:

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
C Amen.

P It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
C to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

P To herald Your love in the morning,
C Your truth at the close of the day.

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.

P: Christ is coming soon. Alleluia!
C: We await His return and look for His coming.

Hymn 333: “Once He Came in Blessing”

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 9:1-2, 7-11

P: I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart;

C: I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

P: I will be glad and rejoice in you;

C: I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

P: The LORD reigns forever;

C: he has established his throne for judgment.

P: He rules the world in righteousness

C: and judges the peoples with equity.

P: The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed,

C: a stronghold in times of trouble.

P: Those who know your name trust in you,

C: for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.

P: Sing the praises of the LORD, enthroned in Zion;

C: proclaim among the nations what he has done.

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 348:

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”

Sermon ... 1 John 4:17-19

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Offering

Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Hymn 549:

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

Evening Prayer

Watch, dear Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give Your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend Your sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest Your weary ones. Bless Your dying ones. Soothe Your suffering ones. Pity Your afflicted ones. Shield Your joyous ones. And all this for Your love’s sake. Amen. (St. Augustine)

The Benediction

Hymn 883:

“All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night”



O Lord God, the Father of all light and wisdom, we give thanks unto You for Your Word, for your laws and commandments, for Your sure word of prophecy, and most especially for the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins through our Lord Jesus Christ. We ask Your blessing on all who preach, teach, read, and study Your Word, that all people may hear the joyful sound of this Gospel of grace.

O God, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that being led by the Holy Spirit we may repent of our sin and shame and turn to Christ alone for forgiveness and righteousness. Enable us by Your Spirit's power, so that we may **abound in hope**, serve and love You more purely, obey your Word with more willing minds, trust You with greater confidence, and love You above all earthly things. Stir up our faith and zeal, O Lord, so that our hearts may be a proper dwelling place for our Savior.

Guard and preserve us so that the devil, the sinful world, and our own flesh may not deceive us, or lead us into error and sin. Keep us steadfast and unfaltering in faith and love so that we may one day experience firsthand the gift which You have given us in Christ: eternal life in heaven.

We pray for Your blessing on each of our households, for men and women, parents and children. Give strength and healing to the sick; give comfort to those who sorrow; give guidance to our youth; give joy and hope to the elderly; give courage to the distressed; and lead all of us to focus our lives on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, whose name is WONDERFUL, and who at His Second Advent will receive us and all who believe in Him unto Himself and unto You, O Father, and the Holy Spirit. In His name we also join in praying....LORD'S PRAYER.

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.