

# ADVENT MIDWEEK

Advent Lessons and Carols

December 9, 2020



## ✘ PREPARATION ✘

**CAROL** "The Advent of Our King"

LSB #331

- 1 - *choir*      The advent of our King  
Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing  
In strains of holy joy.
- 2 - *men*        The everlasting Son  
Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant's form puts on  
To set His servants free.
- 3 - *women*     O Zion's daughter, rise  
To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise  
The peace He comes to bring.
- 4 - *choir*       As judge, on clouds of light,  
He soon will come again  
And His true members all unite  
With Him in heav'n to reign.
- 5 - *all*          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*          All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

## INVOCATION

Pastor:            In the name of the Father and of the ✘ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
People:            **Amen.**

## ADVENT ANTIPHONS

Pastor: O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

**People: Come and teach us the way of prudence.**

Pastor: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

**People: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

Pastor: O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior:

**People: Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

Pastor: Come, O Lord, among us.

**People: Jesus, our Wisdom from on high. Alleluia! Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

**People: the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

**People: and the day is almost over.**

Pastor: Let Your light scatter the darkness

**People: and illumine Your Church.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Luke 19:38*

Pastor: In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus to come. We await the celebration of His birth at Christmas. We remember His arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. We long for His glorious return. As we wait, we consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we confess that our faith has been lacking. We have not abounded in love for one another or for You. Our hearts are filled with blame and shame, with corruption and conceit. Forgive us, strengthen our faith, and purify our hearts.**

Pastor: Jesus not only comes as an infant at Christmas and in glory at His return, but He also comes to you in words of forgiveness and life. Hear these words of forgiveness, for they are from Christ Himself: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

## THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

Pastor: 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.  
**People:** Amen.

*(Congregation, after each reading please respond with "Thanks be to God!")*

## LESSON 1

John 1:1-5, 14

### CAROL "Savior of the Nations, Come"

LSB 332 vv. 1-3, 6

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh—  
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Here a maid was found with child,  
Yet remained a virgin mild.  
In her womb this truth was shown:  
God was there upon His throne.
- 6 For You are the Father's Son  
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.  
By Your mighty pow'r make whole  
All our ills of flesh and soul.

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## LESSON 2

Isaiah 7:10-14

### CAROL "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357 vv. 1-3

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**  
  
**ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**
- 2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. **Refrain**
- 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height

In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**

### LESSON 3

Matthew 3:1-12

#### CAROL "Arise, O Christian People"

LSB #354

- 1 Arise, O Christian people!  
Prepare yourselves today;  
Prepare to greet the Savior,  
Who takes your sins away.  
To us by grace alone  
The truth and light were given;  
The promised Lord from heaven  
To all the world is shown.
- 2 Prepare the way before Him;  
Prepare for Him the best.  
Cast out what would offend Him,  
This great, this heav'nly guest.  
Make straight, make plain the way:  
The lowly valleys raising,  
The heights of pride abasing,  
His path all even lay.
- 3 The humble heart and lowly  
God raises up on high;  
Beneath His feet in terror  
The haughty soul shall lie.  
The heart sincere and right,  
That heeds God's invitation  
And makes true preparation—  
It is the Lord's delight.
- 4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Turn not from me aside,  
And help me to receive You  
This blessed Adventide.  
From stall and manger low  
Come now to dwell within me;  
I'll sing Your praises gladly  
And forth Your glory show.

#### PSALM *Psalm 25*

**Pastor:** To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.

**People:** **Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.**

*Women:* *Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.*

*Men: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!*

**All: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way.**

*Women: All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.*

**All: For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon my guilt, for it is great.**

*Men: Who is the man who fears the LORD? Him will He instruct in the way that He should choose.*

**All: His soul shall abide in well-being, and his offspring shall inherit the land.**

*Pastor: The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He makes known to them His covenant.*

*Women: My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for He will pluck my feet out of the net.*

*Men: Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.*

**All: The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses.**

*Women: Consider my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins.*

*Men: Consider how many are my foes, and with what violent hatred they hate me.*

**All: Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me! Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in You.**

*Pastor: May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You.*

**All: Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.**

**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.**

## **LESSON 4**

Isaiah 40:1-11

**CAROL** "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"

LSB 347

1 – *all* "Comfort, comfort ye My people,  
Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;  
"Comfort those who sit in darkness,  
Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover  
And her warfare now is over."

- 2 – *choir*      Yea, her sins our God will pardon,  
                     Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
 All that well deserved His anger  
                     He no more will see or heed.  
 She hath suffered many\_a day,  
 Now her griefs have passed away;  
                     God will change her pining sadness  
                     Into ever-springing gladness.
- 3 – *all*            Hark, the herald’s voice is crying  
                     In the desert far and near,  
 Calling sinners to repentance,  
                     Since the Kingdom now is here.  
 O that warning cry obey!  
 Now prepare for God a way;  
                     Let the valleys rise to meet Him  
                     And the hills bow down to greet Him.
- 4 – *choir*        Make ye straight what long was crooked;  
                     Make the rougher places plain.  
 Let your hearts be true and humble,  
                     As befits His holy reign.  
 For the glory of the Lord  
 Now o’er earth is shed abroad,  
                     And all flesh shall see the token  
                     That His Word is never broken.

## LESSON 5

Psalm 24: 7-10

**CAROL**    “Prepare the Royal Highway”

LSB #343

- 1 – *choir*        Prepare the royal highway;  
                     The King of kings is near!  
 Let ev’ry hill and valley  
                     A level road appear!  
 Then greet the King of Glory  
 Foretold in sacred story:    **Refrain**
- ref      Hosanna to the Lord,  
 For He fulfills God’s Word!**
- 2 – *all*            God’s people, see Him coming:  
                     Your own eternal king!  
 Palm branches strew before Him!  
                     Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
 God’s promise will not fail you!  
 No more shall doubt assail you!    **Refrain**
- 3 – *choir*        Then fling the gates wide open  
                     To greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him!  
All nations, now adore Him! **Refrain**

4 – *all* His is no earthly kingdom;  
It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness so abounding: **Refrain**

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## **CATECHISM**      *Second Article of the Apostles' Creed*

Pastor: We speak the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning from Luther's Small Catechism:

**People: And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

**People: 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,**

**who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,**

**that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,**

**just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.**

**This is most certainly true.**

## **CAROL**      "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357 vv. 4-7

4 – *men* O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **Refrain**

**ref      Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

5 – women O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. **Refrain**

6 – choir O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**

7 – all O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**

## LITANY

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

People:

☐ Lord, have mer - cy.

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

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: 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:

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

*The prayers then continue:*

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

Common: **C** Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Al - le - lu - ia.' It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the treble staff, with a common time signature 'C' at the beginning.

**Pastor:** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

**Pastor:** 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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'To You, O Lord.' It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'To You, O Lord.' are written below the treble staff, with a common time signature 'C' at the beginning.

## COLLECT FOR PEACE

**Pastor:** 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.

**People:** Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13*

### BENEDICTION

**Pastor:** God Almighty bless you with Advent peace.  
The Lord Jesus Christ keep you from all harm as you await His returning in glory.  
The Holy Spirit remain in your heart and life, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

**HYMN** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

LSB 344

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away  
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.
- △ 5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.