

Midweek of Advent 3

Evening Prayer

For You, to Bear Your Flesh in Weakness

The grass is always greener on the other side. So we lie to ourselves. Blinded to how blessed we are, we covet what God has given to another. We long to switch places with another whom we deem to be living the good life.

While such desires on our part reveal our sinful myopia, God does ordain a grand switch. First, He promises that the proud will be humbled and the humble will be exalted. Mary sings of this upon her pregnancy. It is a theme that is woven throughout Scripture.

There is a far grander swapping of places that occurs. Jesus humbles Himself so that you are filled with good things, even the greatest things. This is the great exchange. Jesus humbles Himself, taking on your sin along with the punishment and death it incurs. You receive His righteousness and the eternal life that it merits.

The prophets had promised it of old. Mary sees it fulfilled in her Son, so she sings:
The Savior came in meekness
For you, for you, to bear your flesh in weakness.

Service of Light

Stand

L The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

L All those who await His appearance pray:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

L The whole creation pleads:

C Come, Lord Jesus.

Phos Hilaron

LSB 244

- L** 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.

Thanksgiving for Light

LSB 245

- L** Blessèd 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.

Sit

Psalmody

Psalm 141

LSB 245

- C** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
I O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry to You.
C Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
II Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips.
I Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.
II But my eyes are turned to You, O God;
in You I take refuge.
Strip me not of my life.
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.
Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.
L 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.

Psalm

Psalm 113

¹Praise the LORD!
 Praise, O servants | of the LORD,*
 praise the name | of the LORD!
²Blessèd be the name | of the LORD*
 from this time forth and for- | evermore!
³From the rising of the sun to its | setting,*
 the name of the LORD is | to be praised!
⁴The LORD is high above all | nations,*
 and his glory above the | heavens!
⁵Who is like the | LORD our God,*
 who is seated | on high,
⁶who looks | far down*
 on the heavens | and the earth?
⁷He raises the poor | from the dust*
 and lifts the needy from the | ash heap,
⁸to make them sit with | princes,*
 with the princes of his | people.
⁹He gives the barren wom- | an a home,*
 making her the joyous mother
 of children. | Praise the LORD!

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and
 here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,
 That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God was there up - on His throne.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

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.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

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Readings

Reading

Isaiah 66:1–2

¹Thus says the LORD:
"Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool;
what is the house that you would build for me,
and what is the place of my rest?"

²All these things my hand has made,
and so all these things came to be,
declares the LORD.

But this is the one to whom I will look:
he who is humble and contrite in spirit
and trembles at my word."

L O Lord, have mercy on us,

C **Thanks be to God**



Benedicamus

LSB 252

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 252

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

C **Amen.**

352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

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



Collect For Peace

L 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.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

L 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.

Stand

Reading

James 4:6–10

⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble." ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

L O Lord, have mercy on us,

C Thanks be to God

Reading

Luke 1:46–55

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

L O Lord, have mercy on us,

C Thanks be to God

L 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.

Sermon

Canticle

Stand

Magnificat

LSB 248

C My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

For He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;
and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty
away.
He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to
our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

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.

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

Sit

Offering

Prayer

Kneel/Stand



Litany

LSB 249

The congregation's response may begin just as the leader's petition ends so that the word "Lord" is sung simultaneously by both leader and congregation.

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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:

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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:

C Lord, have mercy.

L 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.

L 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.

L 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.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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