



BLESSED TO SHARE THE BLESSING IN THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS

Advent Mid-Week service 12/16

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and the brief biblical explanation of Communion on the inside cover of the hymnal.+++

As Christ's birth draws near, it is good to remember that the Advent season is about life. God entered this world, which is marred by death, as a vulnerable baby, brimming with the hope of new life. This Christ Child grew up to be the resurrection and the life, so that in the midst of the darkness of death, we have hope for life now and into eternity. Our Advent calling is to let the life we now have in Christ shine forth into the dark places of our world, so that those who dwell in the land of deep darkness may know the light and life of Jesus.

HYMN

What hope! An Eden prophesied
Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side,
Led by a little child!

A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem,
A branch from David's line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem:
The fruit of God's design.

“What Hope! An Eden Prophesied” (*LSB* 342)
As banner of God's love unfurled,
Christ came to suffer loss,
That by His death a dying world
Would rally to the cross.

Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord,
Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword—
Come, open heaven's door.

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Confession and Absolution *Setting 3 begins on page 184*

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the The Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

- L O Lord, open my lips,
 C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
 L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
 C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
 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.
 Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.**

PSALM 16

- C **You make known to me the | path of life;*
 in Your presence there is fullness of joy;
 at Your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.**
 L Preserve me, | O God,*
 for in You I take | refuge.
 C **I say to the LORD, “You | are my Lord;*
 I have no good a- | part from You.”**
 L As for the saints | in the land,*
 they are the excellent ones,
 in whom is all | my delight.
 C **The sorrows of those who run after another god shall | multiply;*
 their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
 or take their names | on my lips.**
 L The LORD is my chosen portion | and my cup;*
 You | hold my lot.
 C **The lines have fallen for me in pleasant | places;*
 indeed, I have a beautiful in- | heritance.**
 L I bless the LORD who gives me | counsel;*
 in the night also my heart in- | structs me.
 C **I have set the LORD always be- | fore me;*
 because He is at my right hand, I shall not be | shaken.**

L Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being re- | joices;*
my flesh also | dwells secure.

C **For You will not abandon my soul | to Sheol,***
or let Your holy one see cor- | ruption.

Office Hymn 337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending

1 The night will soon be ending;
The dawn cannot be far.

Let songs of praise ascending
Now greet the Morning Star!
All you whom darkness frightens
With guilt or grief or pain,
God's radiant Star now brightens
And bids you sing again.

2 The One whom angels tended
Comes near, a child, to serve;
Thus God, the judge offended,
Bears all our sins deserve.
The guilty need not cower,
For God has reconciled
Through His redemptive power
All those who trust this child.

3 The earth in sure rotation
Will soon bring morning bright,
So run where God's salvation
Glow in a stable's light.
As old as sin's perversion
Is mercy's vast design:
God brings a new creation—
This child its seal and sign.

4 Yet nights will bring their sadness
And rob our hearts of peace,
And sin in all its madness
Around us may increase.
But now one Star is beaming
Whose rays have pierced the night:
God comes for our redeeming
From sin's oppressive might.

5 God dwells with us in darkness
And makes the night as day;
Yet we resist the brightness
And turn from God away.
But grace does not forsake us,
However far we run.
God claims us still as children
Through Mary's infant Son.

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FIRST READING

Matthew 3:13–17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and

coming to rest on Him; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 6:1–11

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For one who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. ⁹ We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰ For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

LSB, p. 230

L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

L In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

SERMON

Offering (Please place your offering in the white box as you enter or depart)
(As we sing the offertory pastor raises the offering plate as a wave offering for all of our tithes and offerings given in person or by mail or via the internet)

† Offertory

C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

C **What is the Magnificat?**

L It is Latin for “magnify, praise.”

C **Where is this in Scripture?**

L It is the first word of the Song of Mary as found in Luke 1:46–55.

ANTIPHON

LSB, p. 231

L Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

MAGNIFICAT

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

M for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.

W For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.

M For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;

W and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

M He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

W He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.

M He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.

W He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

**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.**

COLLECTS

L O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

P Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

God of life, into this death-marred world You bring life through Jesus, the resurrection and the life. Fill us with the life of Jesus, so that, in this world so often filled with darkness, our lives may shine forth His life and hope; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P 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.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary.....evermore praising You and saying:

ƒ Sanctus (*Holy*)

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini (*The Peace of the Lord*)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

ƒ Agnus Dei (*Lamb of God*)

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.

Amen.

Distribution

ƒ Nunc Dimittis (*Now Dismiss*) (*Song of Simeon*)

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,

for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,

a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through

this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Salutation & Benedicamus (*we bless / we praise*)

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and **T** give you peace.

C Amen

HYMN

“Hark the Glad Sound” (*LSB* 349)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song. | 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor. |
| 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield. | 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name. |

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