



December 13, 2023

The Second Wednesday in Advent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary

Processional Hymn *Please Stand Music: "Joyful, Joyful" Hymn 803*

"Come, Thou Long"

♪ Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

♪ Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 338 -Text: Charles Wesley 1707-88; Public Domain;
Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827; adapted Edward Hodges 1796-1867; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Opening Sentences

The Spirit and the Bride say,

"Come."

And let the one who hears say,

"Come."

And let the one who is thirsty come;

Let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Revelation 22:17

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.

Amen.

Revelation 20:20

Hymn of Light *Please Be Seated*

"O Light Whose Splendor"

♪ O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens With radiance brighter than the sun,
Pure gleam of God's unending glory, O Jesus, blest Anointed One;

♪ As twilight hovers near at sunset, And lamps are lit, and children nod,
In evening hymns we lift our voices To Father, Spirit, Son: one God.

♪ In all life's brilliant timeless moments, Let faithful voices sing Your praise,
O Son of God, our Life-bestower, Whose glory lightens endless days.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 891-Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr. b.1944; ©1989 Hope Publishing Co.;
Tune: Clement C. Scholefield; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Thanksgiving for Light

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.

Amen.

Psalmody Hymn

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” (vv. 1-3)

♪ The King shall come when morning dawns And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills And life to joy awakes.

♪ Not as of old a little child, To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun That lights the morning sky.

♪ Oh, brighter than the rising morn When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death Despite the rage of foes.

Psalmody with Hymn Response

Psalm 85

LORD, You were favorable to Your land; You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.

♪ **You once revived us, Lord our God, And we rejoiced in You.**

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, we pray; In Christ Your love we view.

You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us!

Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?

♪ **You once revived us, Lord our God, And we rejoiced in You.**

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, we pray; In Christ Your love we view.

Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;
but let them not turn back to folly. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

♪ **You once revived us, Lord our God, And we rejoiced in You.**

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, we pray; In Christ Your love we view.

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.

♪ **You once revived us, Lord our God, And we rejoiced in You.**

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, we pray; In Christ Your love we view.

*Hymn text: James Pierce. Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

Psalmody Hymn Concludes

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” ” (vv. 4-5)

♪ Oh, brighter than that glorious morn Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes And we shall see His face.

♪ The King shall come when morning dawns And light and beauty brings.

Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: Come quickly, King of kings!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 348-Text: John Brownlie 1859-1925; Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813; Setting: Paul J. Grime; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Old Testament Reading

Nehemiah 4:15–23

¹⁵When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work. ¹⁶From that day on, half of my servants worked on

construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah, ¹⁷who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other. ¹⁸And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me. ¹⁹And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. ²⁰In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.”

²¹So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out. ²²I also said to the people at that time, “Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day.” ²³So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; each kept his weapon at his right hand.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Peter 4:10–13

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

- ♪ 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!
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ 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.

Please Stand

- ♪ All praise, eternal Son, to Thee Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 344 -Text: Charles Coffin 1676-1749; Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius 1571-1621;
Setting: George R Woodward 1848-1934; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1–8

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

The Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

♪ Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
~Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

♪ Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th’ incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! ~Hark!...

♪ Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. ~Hark!....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 380 -Text: Charles Wesley 1707-88; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn 1809-47;
Setting: William H. Cummings 1831-1915; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Proclamation of the Word

“Revived”

Psalm 85

Offering

Apostles’ Creed *Please Stand*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

O Lord, who in the past revived Your people, showing them steadfast love, hear us as we pray for ourselves and all the Church: Strengthen our hope and increase faith and love among us and toward the world. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Revive us again and stir up our hearts to serve You.

Show us Your steadfast love now, O Lord. Hear us as we pray for all who have been forgotten by the world's commerce: Surround with faith-filled people all who are hungry and homeless, the many who are migrants and refugees, people dealing with sudden ills and long-term disabilities, and all who are in mourning. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Revive us again and stir up our hearts to serve You.

Give us, O Lord, what we need as we struggle in this dark world: Renew in us true faith and peace, faithfulness in worship, a spiritual vitality, and a confidence in Your promise of eternal life. Grant that many join us in fruitful worship. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

Hear our prayer, O Lord. Revive us again and stir up our hearts to serve You.

By the blessed coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gave us His own righteousness, grant these our prayers, for we pray in His name.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Magnificat

“My Soul Rejoices”

- ♪ My soul rejoices, My spirit voices- Sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior Has shown me favor- Sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing, Join in confessing God, who is solely Mighty and holy-
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His mercy surely Shall rest securely On all who fear Him,
Love and revere Him- O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
- ♪ His arm now baring, His strength declaring- Sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters- Sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted; The meek exalted. Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy-
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
Here is the token All that was spoken to Abr'ham's offspring
God is fulfilling- O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 933 -Text: Stephen P. Starke b.1955; Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi c1556-1622
© 1991 Stephen P. Starke; admin. Concordia Publishing Housset; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

♪ Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,

And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

~Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo. Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

♪ Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song? ~Glo-ria...

♪ Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. ~Glo-ria....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 368-Text: French, tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, London 1862
Tune: French, setting: Edward S. Barnes 1887-1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*