



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

THIRD ADVENT MIDWEEK SERVICE

December 20, 2023

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRELUDE

"Advent Pastorale"

J. Southbridge

"Come, Thou Long- Expected Jesus"

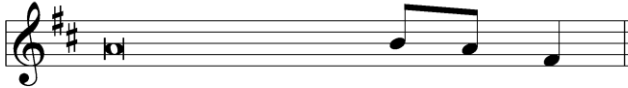
arr. E. Broughton

WELCOME

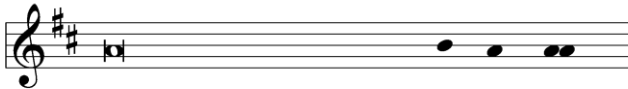
Stand



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

READING

Isaiah 25

A A reading from Isaiah, chapter 25

- ¹O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
- ²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the foreigners' palace is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
- ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
- ⁴For you have been a stronghold to the poor,
a stronghold to the needy in his distress,
a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat;
for the breath of the ruthless is like a storm against a wall,
⁵like heat in a dry place.
- You subdue the noise of the foreigners;
as heat by the shade of a cloud,
so the song of the ruthless is put down.
- ⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.
- ⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.
- ⁸He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
- ⁹It will be said on that day,
"Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."
- ¹⁰For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain,

and Moab shall be trampled down in his place,
 as straw is trampled down in a dunghill.
¹¹And he will spread out his hands in the midst of it
 as a swimmer spreads his hands out to swim,
 but the LORD will lay low his pompous pride together with the skill of his
 hands.
¹²And the high fortifications of his walls he will bring down,
 lay low, and cast to the ground, to the dust.

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 37:1–9



¹Fret not yourself because of evil- | doers;*
 be not envious of wrong- | doers!
²For they will soon fade | like the grass*
 and wither like the | green herb.
³Trust in the LORD, | and do good;*
 dwell in the land and befriend | faithfulness.
⁴Delight yourself | in the LORD,*
 and he will give you the desires | of your heart.
⁵Commit your way | to the LORD;*
 trust in him, and | he will act.
⁶He will bring forth your righteousness | as the light,*
 and your justice as the | noonday.
⁷Be still before the LORD and wait patiently | for him;*
 fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
 over the man who carries out evil de- | vices!
⁸Refrain from anger, and for- | sake wrath!*

Fret not yourself; it tends only to | evil.
⁹For the evildoers shall be | cut off,*
but those who wait for the LORD shall inher- | it the land.

READING

Luke 2:22–32

A A reading from Luke, chapter 2.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

A O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“In His Temple Now Behold Him”

LSB 519



1 In His tem - ple now be - hold Him, See the long - ex -
 2 In the arms of her who bore Him, Vir - gin pure, be -
 3 Je - sus, by Your pre - sen - ta - tion, When they blessed You,



pect - ed Lord; An - cient proph - ets had fore - told Him,
 hold Him lie While His a - ged saints a - dore Him
 weak and poor, Make us see Your great sal - va - tion,



God has now ful - filled His word. Now to praise Him,
 Ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia,
 Seal us with Your prom - ise sure; And pre - sent us



His re - deem - ed Shall break forth with one ac - cord.
 al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
 in Your glo - ry To Your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.

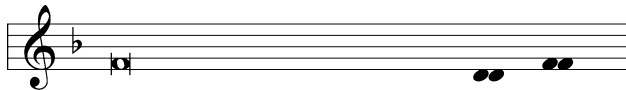
SERMON

“We Wait For Joy”

Pastor W. R. Willsea

CANTICLE

Stand



L Let my prayer rise before You as in - cense,



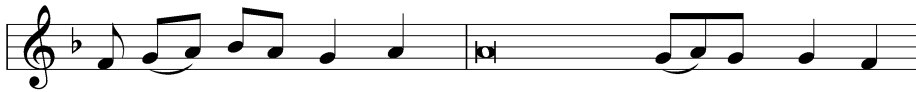
C and the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

MAGNIFICAT

LSB 231



C My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Sav-ior;



I for He has re-gard - ed the lowliness of His hand-maid - en.



II For be-hold, from this day all generations will call me bless - ed.



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



II and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to gen - er - a - tion.



I He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the



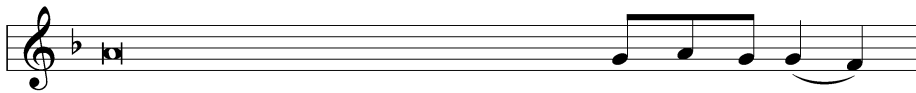
imagination of their hearts. **II** He has cast down the



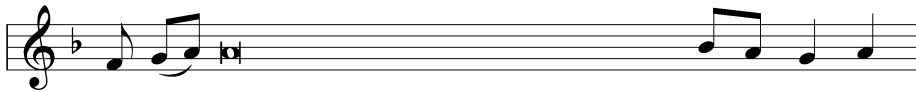
might-y from their thrones and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly.



I He has filled the hun - gry with good things,



and the rich He has sent emp - ty a - way.



II He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mer - cy



as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for-ev-er.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev - er. A-men.

Sit

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"Song of Mary"

R. Howell

Stand

PRAYER

KYRIE

LSB 233



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

COLLECTS

- A** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C** **And let my cry come to You.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY: ADVENT 1

- P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

COLLECT

- A** Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your Church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

COLLECT

- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, Your Son fought the good fight of faith and was obedient unto death, even death on the cross, pouring out His blood as a peace offering between You and us. Keep us faithful unto death so we may receive the

crown of righteousness that the Righteous Judge will reward us with on that day, having waited in hope and love for His appearing; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

A 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.

Stand

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 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 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 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

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

LSB 234

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- G** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- G** **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

"With Joy Unending"

E. Broughton

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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