

+ MIDWEEK OF GAUDETE +

Wednesday, 16 December A+D 2020 • 7:00 P.M.

Lutheran Service Book, Service of Prayer and Preaching, pg. 260

HYMN

"The Night Will Soon Be Ending" LSB 337

- 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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Stand

OPENING VERSICLES

P This is the day which the Lord has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

P Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

C Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.

P Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Make His paths straight.

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down
righteousness.

C Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.

P From the rising of the sun to its setting,
C the name of the Lord is to be praised.

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.

OLD TESTAMENT CANTICLE

LSB 261

C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has
become my salvation.

With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day:

**“Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name,
make known His deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that His name is exalted.”**

**The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has
become my salvation.**

**Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.**

**Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in
your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

**The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has
become my salvation.**

**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.**

**The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has
become my salvation.**

Sit

PSALM

Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 9

- P** Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
C **that glory may dwell in our land.**
- P** LORD, you were favorable to your land;
C **you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**
- P** You forgave the iniquity of your people;
C **you covered all their sin.**
- P** You withdrew all your wrath;
C **you turned from your hot anger.**
- P** Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
C **and put away your indignation toward us!**
- P** Will you be angry with us forever?
C **Will you prolong your anger to all generations?**
- P** Will you not revive us again,
C **that your people may rejoice in you?**
- P** Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
C **and grant us your salvation.**
- P** Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak
peace to his people, to his saints;
C **but let them not turn back to folly.**
- P** Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
C **that glory may dwell in our land.**
- P** Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
C **righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- P** Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
C **and righteousness looks down from the sky.**
- P** Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
C **and our land will yield its increase.**
- P** Righteousness will go before him
C **and make his footsteps a way.**

**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.**

- P** Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

C that glory may dwell in our land.

READING

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

P A reading from 1 Corinthians, chapter 4.

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

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.**

Stand

TEN COMMANDMENTS

- C** You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant
or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to
your neighbor.

APOSTLES' CREED

- C** 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.

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.

RESPONSIVE READING FROM THE SMALL CATECHISM

P The Third Article:

C 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.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Sit

SERMON

"Come...with Salvation!" Psalm 85

HYMN

"Salvation unto Us Has Come" LSB 555

- 1 Salvation unto us has come
By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom,
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

- 2 What God did in His Law demand
And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand
For man, the vile offender.
Our flesh has not those pure desires
The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.

- 3 It was a false, misleading dream
That God His Law had given
That sinners could themselves redeem
And by their works gain heaven.
The Law is but a mirror bright
To bring the inbred sin to light
That lurks within our nature.

- 4 From sin our flesh could not abstain,
Sin held its sway unceasing;
The task was useless and in vain,
Our guilt was e'er increasing.
None can remove sin's poisoned dart
Or purify our guileful heart—
So deep is our corruption.
- 5 Yet as the Law must be fulfilled
Or we must die despairing,
Christ came and has God's anger stilled,
Our human nature sharing.
He has for us the Law obeyed
And thus the Father's vengeance stayed
Which over us impended.
- 6 Since Christ has full atonement made
And brought to us salvation,
Each Christian therefore may be glad
And build on this foundation.
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
Your death is now my life indeed,
For You have paid my ransom.
- 7 Let me not doubt, but truly see
Your Word cannot be broken;
Your call rings out, "Come unto Me!"
No falsehood have You spoken.
Baptized into Your precious name,
My faith cannot be put to shame,
And I shall never perish.
- 8 The Law reveals the guilt of sin
And makes us conscience-stricken;
But then the Gospel enters in

The sinful soul to quicken.
Come to the cross, trust Christ, and live;
The Law no peace can ever give,
No comfort and no blessing.

- 9 Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known,
With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

- △ 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God who saved us by His grace;
All glory to His merit.
O triune God in heav'n above,
You have revealed Your saving love;
Your blessed name we hallow.

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Stand

PRAYER

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and
with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**
P For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the
world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of
all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- 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.**

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

- P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of

Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. 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.

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

LSB 266

C Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed.
Raised from the dead, He will never die again.
Death has no more dominion over Him.

Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia. Alleluia.

Dying, Christ dies to sin, once for all.
Living, He lives to God.

Count yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God in Christ
Jesus, our Lord.

Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia. Alleluia.

BLESSING

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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

C Amen.

HYMN

"O Blessed Light, O Trinity" LSB 890

1 O blessed Light, O Trinity,
O everlasting Unity:
As now the fiery sun departs,
Send forth Your light into our hearts.

2 To You our morning song of praise,
To You our evening prayer we raise;
We praise Your light in ev'ry age,
The glory of our pilgrimage.

△ 3 All glory be to God above
And to the Son, the Prince of love,
And to the Spirit, One in Three!
We praise You, blessed Trinity.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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