

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Midweek of Advent 3

December 15, 2021

Vespers

As We Gather

God’s power is a hidden image. He comes as man, born of woman, and yet He is the mighty Redeemer. He has no army, but His kingdom shall endure forever. He becomes the victim and offers Himself in sacrifice upon the cross, yet His triumph brings salvation to the whole world. We complain that we are alone, we have no might, and our enemies are great; but in Christ, we see that we are not alone, His power is beyond all power, and His might has done what is impossible for us. Now let us stand as one in Christ, clothed in the garments of righteousness He gives us in Baptism.

SERIES HYMN O Great I Am, Almighty Word



1 O great I AM, al - might - y Word, Whose sav - ing
2 Ap - pear - ing in a bush of flame, You called on
3 You dwelt a - midst the wan - d'ring band And led them
4 You chose the weak and gave them might To con - quer
5 O Word In - car - nate, Christ of God, Par - tak - er



deeds were seen and heard A - mong Your peo - ple
Mo - ses to pro - claim De - liv'r - ance from cap -
to the Prom - ised Land; Your pres - ence hov - ered,
in the mor - tal fight, Then took on flesh to
of our flesh and blood, Be in our midst and

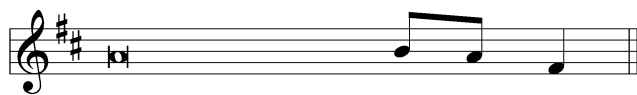


Is - ra - el, Come now to us, and ev - er dwell.
tiv - i - ty And lead Your peo - ple through the sea.
as a cloud, Your glo - ry filled the tent of God.
draw our breath, Meek child, yet vic - tor o - ver death.
al - ways dwell As Sav - ior, Lord, Im - man - u - el.

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Stand

P O Lord, open my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver 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.

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 42; antiphon: v. 11

- P** Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?*
- Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,
my salvation | and my God.
- C** As a deer pants for | flowing streams,*
so pants my soul for You, | O God.
- P** My soul thirsts for God, for the | living God.*
When shall I come and appear be- | fore God?
- C** My tears have been my food | day and night,*
while they say to me continually, “Where | is your God?”
- P** These things I remember, as I pour | out my soul:*
- how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the | house of God
- C** with glad shouts and | songs of praise,*
a multitude keeping | festival.
- P** Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?*
- Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him, my salvation | and my God.
- C** My soul is cast down with- | in me;*
- therefore I remember You from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount | Mizar.
- P** Deep calls to deep at the roar of Your | waterfalls;*
- all Your breakers and Your waves have gone | over me.
- C** By day the LORD commands His steadfast love, and at night His song is | with me,*
a prayer to the God | of my life.
- P** I say to God, my rock: “Why have You for- | gotten me?*
- Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the | enemy?”
- C** As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries | taunt me,*
while they say to me continually, “Where | is your God?”
- C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- P** Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?*
- Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,
my salvation | and my God.

666 O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe

1 O lit - tle flock, fear not the foe Who mad - ly
 2 Be of good cheer; your cause be - longs To Him who
 3 As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor
 4 A - men, Lord Je - sus, grant our prayer; Great Cap - tain,
 seeks your o - ver - throw; Dread not his rage and pow'r.
 can a - venge your wrongs; Leave it to Him, our Lord.
 hell's sa - tan - ic crew A - gainst us shall pre - vail.
 now Thine arm make bare, Fight for us once a - gain!
 And though your cour - age some-times faints, His seem - ing
 Though hid - den yet from mor - tal eyes, His Gid - eon
 Their might? A joke, a mere fa - cade! God is with
 So shall Thy saints and mar - tyrs raise A might - y
 tri - umph o'er God's saints Lasts but a lit - tle hour.
 shall for you a - rise, Up - hold you and His Word.
 us and we with God— Our vic - t'ry can - not fail.
 cho - rus to Thy praise For - ev - er - more. A - men.

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Readings

Reading

Judges 6:11–24; 7:2–9

P A reading from Judges, chapter 6 and 7.

¹¹Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.” ¹³And Gideon said to him, “Please, sir, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the LORD has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” ¹⁴And the LORD turned to him and said, “Go in this might of yours and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” ¹⁵And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.” ¹⁶And the LORD said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.” ¹⁷And he said to him, “If now I have found favor in your eyes, then show me a sign that it is you who speaks with me. ¹⁸Please do not depart from here until I come to you and bring out my present and set it before you.” And he said, “I will stay till you return.”

¹⁹So Gideon went into his house and prepared a young goat and unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and the broth he put in a pot, and brought them to him under the terebinth and presented them. ²⁰And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them.” And he did so. ²¹Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. ²²Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.” ²³But the LORD said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.” ²⁴Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, The LORD is Peace. To this day it still stands at Ophrah, which belongs to the Abiezrites.

^{7:2}The LORD said to Gideon, “The people with you are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hand, lest Israel boast over me, saying, ‘My own hand has saved me.’ ³Now therefore proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, ‘Whoever is fearful and trembling, let him return home and hurry away from Mount Gilead.’” Then 22,000 of the people returned, and 10,000 remained.

⁴And the LORD said to Gideon, “The people are still too many. Take them down to the water, and I will test them for you there, and anyone of whom I say to you, ‘This one shall go with you,’ shall go with you, and

anyone of whom I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' shall not go." ⁵So he brought the people down to the water. And the LORD said to Gideon, "Every one who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog lapped, you shall set by himself. Likewise, every one who kneels down to drink." ⁶And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouths, was 300 men, but all the rest of the people knelt down to drink water. ⁷And the LORD said to Gideon, "With the 300 men who lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hand, and let all the others go every man to his home." ⁸So the people took provisions in their hands, and their trumpets. And he sent all the rest of Israel every man to his tent, but retained the 300 men. And the camp of Midian was below him in the valley.

⁹That same night the LORD said to him, "Arise, go down against the camp, for I have given it into your hand.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Micah 5:2-5

P A reading from Micah, chapter 5.

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

4 Responsoy (Advent)

LSB 230

P 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.

P 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.

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



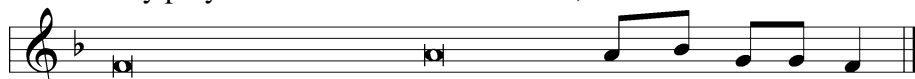
C This is the name
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Sermon

Stand

Canticle

P Let my prayer rise before You as incense,



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

935 Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of His Word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings, give my spir - it voice;
 Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
 Pow'rs and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is His prom - ise, and His mer - cy sure.



Ten - der to me the prom - ise of His Word;
 His mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord



In God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - joice.
 His ho - ly name, the Lord, the Might - y One.
 The hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 To chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more!

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Sit

Offering

Prayer

Stand

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

P 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.

P Mighty and eternal God, apart from You, we are weak and fearful, but You have not left us alone or without strength and power. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may daily acknowledge Christ's presence and reject the temptation to fear. Help us to rejoice in His mighty acts, by which we have been saved, and to remember His steadfast love and power when we would be tempted to despair, so that in Christ we may endure all trials and be found faithful when He comes again; through Jesus Christ, 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.



Stand

Benedicamus

LSB 234

P Let us bless the Lord.



Benediction

LSB 234

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.



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 - ya 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

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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