

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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MIDWEEK VESPERS ADVENT 2

Resounding Psalms for Advent: Revived

December 13, 2023



As We Gather

We do not often emphasize the psalms during the Advent season, instead being eager to read about the prophecies, anticipating Jesus' coming. Yet the psalms are God's Word during terrible times to people who lived before God's promises were fulfilled in our Savior's coming. This Advent, we focus on several psalms as we use them to prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth with open eyes and ears.

Today we focus on Psalm 85, which pleads with the Lord of hosts, "Revive us again!" That's asking for more than a little energy; it calls for rebirth and resurrection. And so the answer had to wait until Jesus came. We have been revived by our inclusion in the Body of Christ. Let the rejoicing resound!

891 O Light Whose Splendor

1 O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens
 2 As twilight hovers near at sunset,
 3 In all life's brilliant timeless moments,

With radiance brighter than the sun,
 And lamps are lit, and children nod,
 Let faithful voices sing Your praise,

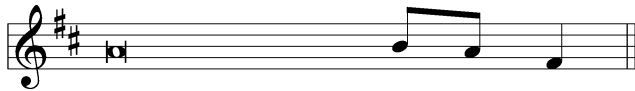
Pure gleam of God's unending glory,
 In evening hymns we lift our voices
 O Son of God, our Lifegiver,

O Jesus, blest Anointed One;
 To Father, Spirit, Son: one God.
 Whose glory lightens endless days.

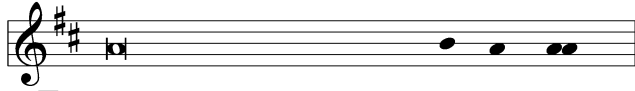
Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1944
Tune: Clement C. Scholefield, 1839-1904
Text: © 1989 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219
Tune: Public domain



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.

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 85

- P** ¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- C** ²You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.
- P** ³You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.
- C** ⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!
- P** ⁵Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- C** ⁶Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?
- P** ⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.
- C** ⁸Let 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.
- P** ⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.
- C** ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- P** ¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.

C ¹²Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

P ¹³Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

Sit

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phunt breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.
Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth
Text and tune: Public domain

Readings

Reading

Nehemiah 4

R A reading from Nehemiah, chapter 4.

¹ Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?” ³ Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, “Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!” ⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. ⁵ Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.

⁶ So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. ⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

¹⁰ In Judah it was said, “The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall.” ¹¹ And our enemies said, “They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the work.” ¹² At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, “You must return to us.” ¹³ So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. ¹⁴ And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”

¹⁵ When 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. ¹⁶ From 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.

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Reading

Mark 1:1–8

R A reading from Mark, chapter 1.

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,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight,’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And 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. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Advent)

LSB 230



L 1 Behold, the days
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise
up for David a righ-teous Branch.
2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will
dwell se - cure - ly.
3 Glory be to the
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.

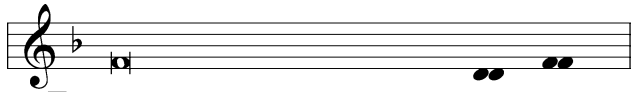


C This is the name
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righ-teous-ness.

Sermon

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.

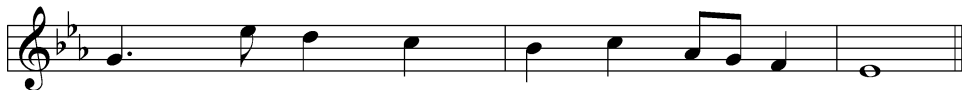
934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

Text: Luke 1:46-55; adapt. Stephanie K. Frey, 1952
Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219
Tune: Public domain

Sit

Offering

486 If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death st. 1

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



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect for Today

P Revive us again, Lord our God, and give us Christ's own righteousness so that we may serve You and love the people around us as living stones of Your temple; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect from Sunday

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Collect for Peace

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 A - men.

Stand

Benedicamus



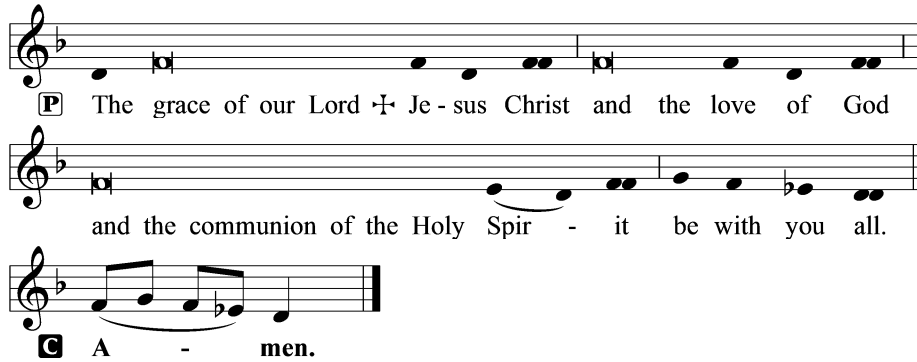
L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 234

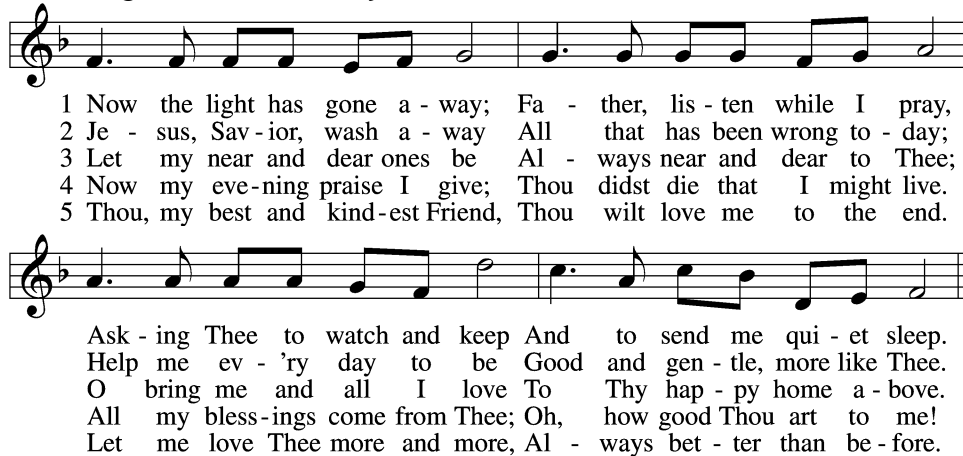


P The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God
and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.

C A - men.

887 Now the Light Has Gone Away

sts. 1-5



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;
3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;
4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
5 Thou, my best and kind - est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.

Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.
Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.
O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.
All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!
Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79, alt.
Tune: Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen, 1842, Kaiserswerth
Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Adult Sunday School at 9am on Sunday mornings is studying Leviticus.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets on Wednesday at **10am**, studying the book of 1 Samuel.

Midweek Advent Services are **Dec 13 & 20**. There will be a light meal on Wednesday nights at **6:30pm**, followed by Vespers at **7pm**.

Church Council next meeting is **Jan 14 at 8am**.

December has a **Fifth Sunday!** Get your hymn ideas to Pastor Huston by Christmas Eve.

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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