

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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# MIDWEEK VESPERS ADVENT 3

## Resounding Psalms for Advent: Returned

December 20, 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 psalms as we use them to prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth with open eyes and ears.

Today we focus on Psalm 126, which speaks of the exiles that returned to Zion. And our joy shall be greater, for we will return to the new Eden, God's great garden!

### 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 Life bestower,

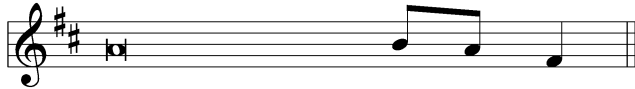
O Jesus, blest Anointed One;  
 To Father, Spirit, Son: one God.  
 Whose glory lightens endless days.

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

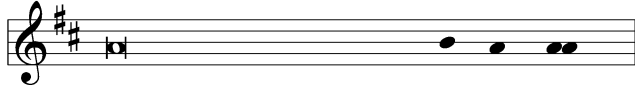
Stand



**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.

## Psalmody

### Psalm

*Psalm 126*

- P** <sup>1</sup>When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.
- C** <sup>2</sup>Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- P** <sup>3</sup>The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.
- C** <sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like streams in the Negeb!
- P** <sup>5</sup>Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!
- C** <sup>6</sup>He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.

### 334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
 3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.  
 4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
 And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new  
 A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
 And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.  
 That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
 Cannot His love erase;  
 Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
 And cover by His grace.  
 He comes, for you procuring  
 The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
 His children thus securing  
 Eternal life in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the nations,  
 A terror to His foes,  
 A light of consolations  
 And blessèd hope to those  
 Who love the Lord's appearing.  
 O glorious Sun, now come,  
 Send forth Your beams so cheering,  
 And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Readings

### Reading

**R** A reading from Isaiah, chapter 61.

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
 because the LORD has anointed me  
 to bring good news to the poor;  
 he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
 to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
 and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
 and the day of vengeance of our God;  
 to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
 to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
 the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
 the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;

that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations. . . .

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

**R** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Reading

*1 Peter 3:13–22*

**R** A reading from 1 Peter, chapter 3.

<sup>13</sup>Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

**R** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Responsory (Advent)



- 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.

## 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!

Sit

## Offering

883 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night sts. 1–2

## 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** Return us to Your eternal Eden, Lord our God, and grant us such a sense of joy that the people around us may seek You and Your gracious blessings; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

## Collect from Sunday

**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 Peace

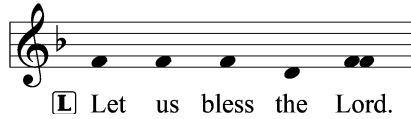
**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Stand

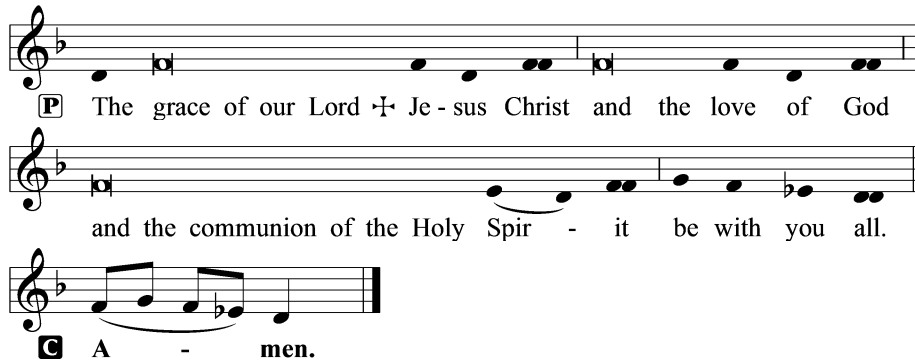
### Benedicamus

LSB 234

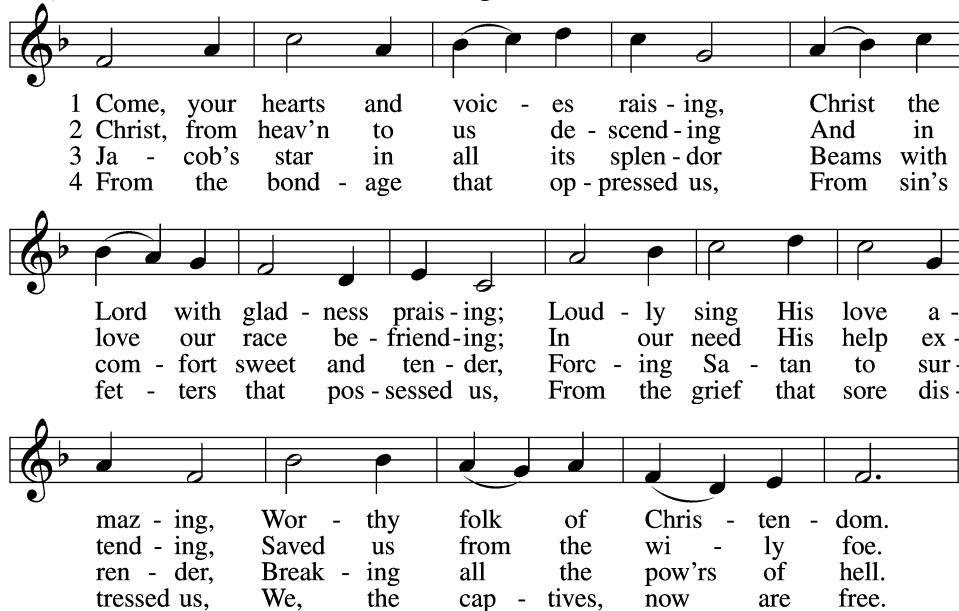


### Benediction

LSB 234



### 375 Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising



5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
And to You we come confessing  
That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,  
From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join Your choir above.

## **Announcements**

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

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets on Wednesday **Jan 3** at **10am**, studying the book of 2 Samuel.

**Midweek Advent Services** are **Dec 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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