

EVENING PRAYER

Service of Light

Hymnal Supplement Page 17

Stand

P The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P All those who await His appearance pray:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P The whole creation pleads:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**O Light Whose splendor thrills and gladdens
With radiance brighter than the sun,
Pure gleam of God's unending glory,
O Jesus, blest Anointed One;**

**As twilight hovers near at sunset,
And lamps are lit, and children nod,
In evening hymns we lift our voices
To Father, Spirit, Son: One God.**

**In all life's brilliant timeless moments,
Let faithful voices sing Your praise,
O Son of God, our Life Bestower,
Whose glory lightens endless days.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, Who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Psalm 141

P O Lord, I call upon You; hasten to me!

C **Give ear to my voice when I call to You!**

P Let my prayer be counted as incense before You,

C **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!**

P Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth;

C **keep watch over the door of my lips!**

P do not let my heart incline to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity,

C **and let me not eat of the delicacies!**

P Let a righteous man strike me it is a kindness; let him rebuke me it is oil for my head; let my head nor refuse it.

C **Yet my prayer is continually against their evil deeds.**

P When their judges are thrown over the cliff,

C **then they shall hear my words, for they are pleasant.**

P As when one plows and breaks up the earth,
C **So shall our bones be scattered at the mouth of Sheol.**
P But my eyes are toward You, O God, my Lord;
C **in You I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!**
P Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me
C **and from the snare of evildoers!**
P Let the wicked fall into their own nets,
C **While I pass by safely.**
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.**

Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.
2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.
3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.
4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.

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Readings

The Old Testament Lesson:

Malachi 3:1-7b

¹"Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord Whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the Covenant in Whom you delight, behold, He is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. ⁵Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear Me, says the LORD of hosts. ⁶"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My Statutes and have not kept them."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel:

Luke 3:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the Word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the Book of the Words of Isaiah the prophet, **“The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”** ⁷He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, **“You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ⁹Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”** ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, **“What then shall we do?”** ¹¹And he answered them, **“Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.”** ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, **“Teacher, what shall we do?”** ¹³And he said to them, **“Collect no more than you are authorized to do.”** ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, **“And we, what shall we do?”** And he said to them, **“Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”** ¹⁵As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, ¹⁶John answered them all, saying, **“I baptize you with water, but He Who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of Whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in His hand, to clear His threshing floor and to gather the wheat into His barn, but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire.”** ¹⁸So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. ¹⁹But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, ²⁰added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

Stand

Magnificat

**My soul rejoices, My spirit voices, Sing the greatness of the Lord! For God my Saviour
Has shown me favour – Sing the greatness of the Lord! With praise and blessing, Join in
confessing God Who is solely Mighty and Holy – Oh, sing the greatness of the Lord! His
tender mercy Shall rest securely On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him – Oh, sing the
greatness of the Lord!**

His arm now baring, His strength declaring – Sing the greatness of the Lord! The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters – Sing the greatness of the Lord! Oppression halted; The meek exalted. Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy – Oh, sing the greatness of the Lord! Here is the token All that was spoken To A-br'am's offspring God is fulfilling – Oh, sing the greatness of the Lord!

Stand

Litany

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this Holy House and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C **Alleluia.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

P Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C **To You, O Lord.**

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 **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Sit

Offering

Hymn: Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

LSB 352

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who has truly kept His word
And at last to us did send
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- 2 What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many_a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- 3 Abram's promised great reward,
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of twofold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.
- 4 As Your coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
Which is Yours eternally.
- 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.

PRAYER

P Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from heaven that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that is steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your Name may abide to the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Blessing

P The Almighty and Merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C **Amen.**

Hymn to Depart: Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

LSB 353

- 1 Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus comes again in mercy
When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.
- 3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope to all the world is giv'n.
- 4 Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comforts us in failing years.

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