

## EVENING PRAYER

### Service of Light

*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:** The Advent of Our King

**LSB 331**

1 The advent of our King  
Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing  
In strains of holy joy.

2 The everlasting Son  
Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant's form puts on  
To set His servants free.

3 O Zion's daughter, rise  
To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let your faithless heart despise  
The peace He comes to bring.

4 As judge, on clouds of light,  
He soon will come again  
And His true members all unite  
With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away,  
The new self now put on.

△ 6 All glory to the Son,  
Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one  
Through all eternity.

## Readings

### The Old Testament Lesson:

*Jeremiah 33:14–16*

<sup>14</sup>“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the Name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### The Holy Gospel:

*Luke 1:26–38*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a Virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the Virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His Name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, <sup>33</sup>and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a Virgin?” <sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the Child to be born will be called Holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to Your Word.” And the angel departed from her.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

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

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

## 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

**Sermon Hymn:** O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

**LSB 334**

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,  
How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You,  
My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
Your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please You best.
  
- 2 Your Zion strews before You  
Green boughs and fairest palms;  
And I too will adore You  
With joyous songs and psalms.  
My heart shall bloom forever  
For You with praises new  
And from Your name shall never  
Withhold the honor due.

- 3 I lay in fetters, groaning;  
You came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning;  
You came to honor me.  
A glorious crown You give me,  
A treasure safe on high  
That will not fail or leave me  
As earthly riches fly.
- 4 Love caused Your incarnation;  
Love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling,  
That led You to embrace  
In love, all love excelling,  
Our lost and fallen 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 blessed 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.

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**Sermon:** The Birth of God! How and...Why?

**Luke 1:26-38**

*Kneel/Stand*

## Prayer

**P** Lord God, You have call Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

**C Amen.**

## Benedicamus

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Benediction

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

**C Amen.**

## Hymn to Depart: Once He Came in Blessing

**LSB 333**

- 1 Once He came in blessing,  
All our sins redressing;  
Came in likeness lowly,  
Son of God most holy;  
Bore the cross to save us;  
Hope and freedom gave us.
- 2 Now He gently leads us;  
With Himself He feeds us  
Precious food from heaven,  
Pledge of peace here given,  
Manna that will nourish  
Souls that they may flourish.
- 3 Soon will come that hour  
When with mighty power  
Christ will come in splendor  
And will judgment render,  
With the faithful sharing  
Joy beyond comparing.
- 4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus,  
From our sins release us.  
Keep our hearts believing,  
That we, grace receiving,  
Ever may confess You  
Till in heav'n we bless You.

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