

**Advent III**  
**December 18, 2024**



# Christmas

## TREES

# Service of Evening Prayer

## 318 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
2 See, the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with  
3 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the  
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion to the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son with the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day."  
tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;  
with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.  
last - ing Spir - it while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878, alt.; Latin, c. 5th–10th cent. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
**the light no darkness can overcome.**

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
**and the day is almost over.**

Be our light and scatter the darkness,  
**and hear our evening prayer and praise.**

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# Hymn of Light

CW 216



1 Glad - d'ning light of pur - est glo - ry, shin - ing  
2 In the fad - ing light of eve - ning, as the  
3 For your gift of life un - end - ing, joy - ful



down from heav'n on high, from the ev - er -  
set - ting sun de - parts, Fa - ther, Son, and  
voic - es ev - er sing hymns of praise that



liv - ing Fa - ther— hail, most bless - ed Je - sus Christ!  
Ho - ly Spir - it— we a - dore you, Lord our God.  
right - ly hon - or, Son of God, your sav - ing name.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

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## Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with 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. We, your creatures, glorify you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# Psalm 141

CW 217



Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up



of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I



call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I



cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,



the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Tune: David Schack

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## Psalm Prayer

Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

<sup>16</sup>to the woman he said:

I will greatly increase your pain in childbearing.  
With painful labor you will give birth to children.  
Your desire will be for your husband,  
but he will rule over you.

<sup>17</sup>To Adam he said:

Because you listened to your wife's voice  
and ate from the tree about which I commanded you,  
“You shall not eat from it,”  
the soil is cursed on account of you.  
You will eat from it with painful labor all the days of your life.

<sup>18</sup>Thorns and thistles will spring up from the ground for you,  
but you will eat the crops of the field.

<sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you will eat bread  
until you return to the soil,  
for out of it you were taken.  
For you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.

<sup>20</sup>The man named his wife Eve because she would be the mother of all the living. <sup>21</sup>The LORD God made clothing of animal skins for Adam and for his wife and clothed them.

<sup>22</sup>The LORD God said, “Look, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil. Now, so that he does not reach out his hand and also take from the Tree of Life and eat and live forever—”  
<sup>23</sup>the LORD God sent him out from the Garden of Eden to work the soil from which he had been taken. <sup>24</sup>So he drove the man out, and in front of the Garden of Eden he stationed cherubim and a flaming sword, which turned in every direction to guard the way to the Tree of Life.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# 27C The LORD Is My Light and My Salvation

Psalm 27C

## Refrain



The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion— of  
whom shall I be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

## Tone



Hear my voice when I / call, LORD;  
be merciful to me and / answer me.  
Do not hide your / face from me,  
do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my / helper.  
Do not reject me or for- / sake me,  
God my / Savior. *Refrain*

Though my father and mother for- / sake me,  
the LORD will re- / ceive me.  
I remain confi- / dent of this:  
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the / living.  
Wait / for the LORD;  
be strong and take heart and wait / for the LORD.  
**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. *Refrain***

Tune: David Haas

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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## **Psalm Prayer**

Dearest Lord, instill in us a fearlessness no enemy can shake. Lead us to your house to meditate on your saving deeds and gaze on the beauty of your Son, our Savior. When we suffer, make us patient. Teach us perseverance to long for your final salvation and rest secure in your house forever; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Reading**

*Revelation 22:1–5*

<sup>1</sup>The angel showed me the river of the water of life, which was as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and the Lamb. <sup>2</sup>In the middle of the city's street and on each side of the river was a tree of life that yielded twelve kinds of fruit. The tree yields its fruit every month, and its leaves are for the healing of the nations.

<sup>3</sup>There will no longer be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city. His servants will worship him. <sup>4</sup>They will see his face. His name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>There will no longer be any night or any need for lamplight or sunlight, because the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 567 What Adam's Disobedience Cost



1 What Ad - am's dis - o - be - dience cost, let Ho - ly Scrip - ture  
2 An ark of mer - cy rode the flood, but we, where wa - ters  
3 A lit - tle child is Ad - am's heir, is Ad - am's hope and  
4 Re - gained is Ad - am's bless - ed - ness; the an - gels sheathe their  
5 Re - newed, re - stored, we look a - head to glimpse that glo - rious



say: our - selves es - tranged, an E - den lost, and  
swirled, re - built, im - pa - tient of the good, an -  
Lord. Sing joy - ful car - ols ev - 'ry - where that  
swords. In joy - ful car - ols all con - fess the  
day when in the new Je - ru - sa - lem all



then a judg - ment day: each day a judg - ment day.  
oth - er fall - en world: an un - re - pent - ant world.  
E - den is re - stored: in Je - sus is re - stored.  
king - dom is the Lord's: the glo - ry is the Lord's!  
griefs will pass a - way. A - men. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text (sts. 1-4): Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000; (st. 5): Carol M. Bechtel, b. 1959 Tune: A Supplement to the Kentucky Harmony, Harrisonburg, 1820, ed. Ananias Davison Text (sts. 1-4): © 1978 Hope Publishing Co.; (st. 5): © 2013 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518 Tune: Public domain

## Sermon The Tree of Life Revelation 22:1-5

Stand







He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich  
 he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the  
 help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his  
 prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,  
 to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert Tune: © 1993 Kurt J. Eggert, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

## Lord, Have Mercy

CW 221

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Thanks be to God.**

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

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

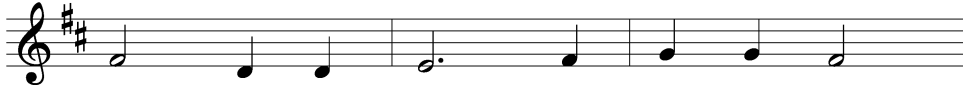
Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord:

**to you, O Lord.**

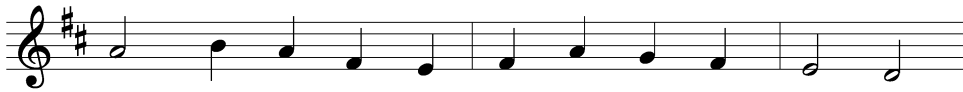
*Be seated*

# Offering

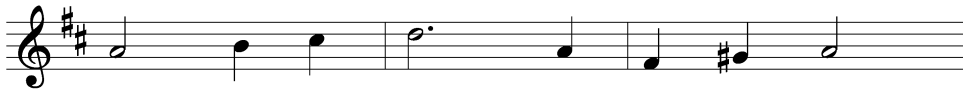
## 342 O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is



1 O Je - sus Christ, your man - ger is  
2 He whom the sea and wind o - bey  
3 Dear Chris - tian friend, on him de - pend;  
4 Pon - der a - gain what glo - ry then  
5 The world may hold her wealth and gold;



my par - a - dise at which I am re - clin - ing.  
comes down to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.  
be of good cheer and let no sor - row move you.  
the Lord will give you for your earth - ly sad - ness.  
but you, my heart, keep Christ as your true trea - sure.



For there, O Lord, we find the Word  
Now God's own Son with us is one  
For God's own Child in mer - cy mild  
The an - gel host can nev - er boast  
To him hold fast un - til at last



made flesh for us— your grace is bright - ly shin - ing.  
and joins us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.  
joins you to him— how great - ly God must love you!  
of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.  
a crown is yours and hon - or in full mea - sure.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518 Tune: Public domain

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer**

Abide with us, Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over. Abide with us and with your whole Church. Abide with us in the evening of the day, in the evening of life, in the evening of the world. Abide with us in your grace and goodness, in your holy Word and sacrament, in your comfort and blessing. Abide with us when we are overcome by the night of sorrow and fear, by the night of doubt and affliction, by the night of bitter death. Abide with us and with all your people in time and in eternity.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Benedicamus**

Let us praise the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Blessing

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

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## 343 Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -  
4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble with the ox - en



cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
deem - ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our  
stand - ing by shall we see him, but in heav - en, set at



man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and mean and  
Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren  
God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren



mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
on to the place where he is gone.  
crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, abr., alt.

Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

Text and tune: Public domain

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## Join Us for Advent

*Nothing can stop the Advent of Christ*

### **Sundays (8 & 10:30 am)**

Dec. 22 - A Real Christmas Will Lift Up  
the Lowly

### **Wednesdays (7 pm)**

Dec. 18 - The Tree of Life

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