

**Advent I**  
**December 4, 2024**



# Christmas

## TREES

## Service of Evening Prayer

### 309 The Advent of Our King



1 The ad - vent of our King our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son, in flesh con - tent to be,  
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly King,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain



and we must hymns of wel - come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.  
him - self a ser - vant's form puts on to set his ser - vants free.  
nor let a faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.  
and his true mem - bers all u - nite with him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day  
let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
the old self all 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.

Text: tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749 Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–1776 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.**

## Hymn of Light



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



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 Tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

## 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>1</sup>Now the serpent was more clever than any wild animal which the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees of the garden, <sup>3</sup>but not from the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden. God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it. You shall not touch it, or else you will die.’”

<sup>4</sup>The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die. <sup>5</sup>In fact, God knows that the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was appealing to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She gave some also to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

<sup>7</sup>The eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked. They sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for their waists. <sup>8</sup>They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

<sup>9</sup>The LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

<sup>10</sup>The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.”

<sup>11</sup>God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?”

<sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

<sup>13</sup>The LORD God said to the woman, “What have you done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this,  
you are cursed more than all the livestock,  
and more than every wild animal.

You shall crawl on your belly,  
and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put hostility between you and the woman,  
and between your seed and her seed.

He will crush your head,  
and you will crush his heel.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# 1A Blessed Are They

## Refrain

Bless - ed are they, bless - ed are  
they who hope in the LORD.

## Tone

Blessed is the one who / does not walk  
in step with the / wicked  
or stand in the way that / sinners take  
or sit in the company of / mockers,  
but whose delight is in the law / of the LORD,  
and who meditates on his law / day and night.  
That person is like a tree planted by streams of / water,  
which yields its fruit in / season  
and whose leaf does not / wither—  
whatever they do / prospers. *Refrain*

Not so the / wicked!  
They are like chaff that the wind / blows away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the / judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the / righteous. *Refrain*

For the LORD watches over the way of the / righteous,  
but the way of the wicked leads to de- / struction.

**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***

## **Psalm Prayer**

Lord, let your Word so saturate our souls that we grow into lush trees bearing fruit for you. When the voices of the wicked tempt us to stray down other paths, keep us on the way that leads to our heavenly home. We ask this, confident that you watch over the way of the righteous; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## **Reading**

### **Galatians 3:7–13**

<sup>7</sup>Understand, then, that those who believe are the children of Abraham. <sup>8</sup>Foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, Scripture proclaimed the gospel in advance to Abraham, saying, “In you, all nations will be blessed.” <sup>9</sup>So then, those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

<sup>10</sup>In fact, those who rely on the works of the law are under a curse. For it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the book of the law.” <sup>11</sup>Clearly no one is declared righteous before God by the law, because “The righteous will live by faith.” <sup>12</sup>The law does not say “by faith.” Instead it says, “The one who does these things will live by them.”

<sup>13</sup>Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. As it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# 574 The Tree of Life



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good in E - den's  
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove was bro - ken  
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, a plan of  
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame flows life e -



ho - ly or - chard stood, and of its fruit so pure and  
 as the ser - pent strove with tempt - ing voice Eve to be -  
 res - cue by his grace, in send - ing One from wom - an's  
 ter - nal in his name; for all who trust and will be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this  
 guile and Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of  
 seed, the One to fill our great - est need— for on a  
 lieve, sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this



gar - den al - so grew an - oth - er tree, of  
 sad - ness when the breath of fear and dark - ness,  
 tree up - lift - ed high his on - ly Son for  
 fruit so pure and sweet the Lord in - vites the



which they knew; its love - ly limbs with fruit a -  
 doubt and death, its aw - ful poi - son first dis -  
 sin would die, would drink the cup of scorn and  
 world to eat, to find with - in this cross of



dorned a - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.  
 played with - in the world so new - ly made.  
 dread to crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!  
 wood the tree of life with ev - 'ry good.



# Sermon The Tree of Rebellion Genesis 3:1-15

Stand

## Song of Mary



My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-



joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor



on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions



will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great



things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on



those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.



He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the



proud in their con-ceil. He has cast down the might-y

from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.

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.

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## Lord, Have Mercy

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

## 310 Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -  
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore him, pre - pare for him the  
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on  
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; turn not from me a -



day; pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, who  
best; cast out what would of - fend him, this  
high; be - neath his feet in ter - ror the  
side, and help me to re - ceive you this



takes your sins a - way. To us by grace a -  
great, this heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the  
haugh - ty soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and  
bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger



lone the truth and light were giv - en; the prom - ised  
way: the low - ly val - leys rais - ing, the heights of  
right, that heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion and makes true  
low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your



Lord from heav - en to all the world is shown.  
pride a - bas - ing, his path all e - ven lay.  
prep - a - ra - tion— it is the Lord's de - light.  
prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662; (sts. 1–3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.  
Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt. Text and 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*

## 323 Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's  
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse should doom to  
3 When earth drew on to dark - est night, you came, but  
4 At your great name, ma - jes - tic now, all knees must  
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the



ev - er - last - ing light, O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
death a u - ni - verse, you came to save a ru - ined race  
not in splen - dor bright, not as a king, but as the child  
bend, all hearts must bow; all things on earth with one ac - cord  
Spir - it, Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you, hear us when we call.  
with heal - ing gifts of heav'n - ly grace.  
of Mar - y, vir - gin moth - er mild.  
join those in heav'n to call you Lord.  
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Latin, c. 9th cent. Tune: plainsong, c. 9th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

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## **Join Us for Advent**

*Nothing can stop the Advent of Christ*

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

Dec. 8 - A Real Christmas is Rooted in  
Repentance

Dec. 15 - A Real Christmas Results in  
Great Joy (8:00 am only)

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

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

Dec. 4 - The Tree of Rebellion

Dec. 11 - The Tree of Promise

Dec. 18 - The Tree of Life



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