

**Midweek Advent Service  
December 18, 2024**

- L** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.  
**L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.  
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.  
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

**Psalm**

*Psalm 85*

- <sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable to your land;  
**you restored the fortunes of Jacob.**  
<sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
**you covered all their sin.**  
<sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath;  
**you turned from your hot anger.**  
<sup>4</sup>Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
**and put away your indignation toward us!**  
<sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever?  
**Will you prolong your anger to all generations?**  
<sup>6</sup>Will you not revive us again,  
**that your people may rejoice in you?**  
<sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
**and grant us your salvation.**  
<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
**for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.**  
<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,  
**that glory may dwell in our land.**  
<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;  
**righteousness and peace kiss each other.**  
<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness springs up from the ground,  
**and righteousness looks down from the sky.**  
<sup>12</sup>Yes, the LORD will give what is good,  
**and our land will yield its increase.**  
<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him  
**and make his footsteps a way.**

**907 God Himself Is Present**

- 1 God Himself is present:  
Let us now adore Him**

**And with awe appear before Him.  
God is in His temple;  
All within keep silence;  
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.  
He alone  
On His throne  
Is our God and Savior;  
Praise His name forever!**

- 2 God Himself is present:  
Hear the harps resounding;  
See the hosts the throne surrounding.  
“Holy, holy, holy!”  
Hear the hymn ascending,  
Songs of saints and angels blending.  
Bow Your ear  
To us here:  
Hear, O Christ, the praises  
That Your Church now raises.**
- 3 Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
Purify my spirit,  
Trusting only in Your merit.  
Like the holy angels,  
Worshiping before You,  
May I ceaselessly adore You.  
Let Your will  
Ever still  
Rule Your Church terrestrial  
As the hosts celestial.**

Text: Gerhard Tersteegen, 1697–1769, abr.; tr. Frederick W. Foster, 1760–1835, alt.; tr. John Miller, 1756–90, alt.  
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**Reading**

*Ezra 3:8–11*

- L** A reading from Ezra, chapter 3.

<sup>8</sup>Now in the second year after their coming to the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel and Jeshua the son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their kinsmen, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upward, to supervise the work of the house of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Jeshua with his sons and his brothers, and Kadmiel and his sons, the sons of Judah, together supervised the workmen in the house of God, along with the sons of Henadad and the Levites, their sons and brothers.

<sup>10</sup>And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments came forward with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, to praise the LORD, according to the directions of David king of Israel. <sup>11</sup>And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD, “For he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”

And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Reading

*1 Corinthians 3:10–23*

**L** A reading from 1 Corinthians, chapter 3.

<sup>10</sup>According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. <sup>11</sup>For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— <sup>13</sup>each one’s work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. <sup>14</sup>If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup>If anyone’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

<sup>16</sup>Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you? <sup>17</sup>If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.

<sup>18</sup>Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. <sup>19</sup>For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,” <sup>20</sup>and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.” <sup>21</sup>So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, <sup>22</sup>whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, <sup>23</sup>and you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Reading

*John 2:13–22*

**L** A reading from John, chapter 2.

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. <sup>15</sup>And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he

poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

<sup>16</sup>And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

<sup>18</sup>So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking about the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Responsory (Advent)

*LSB 230*

**L** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

**C** This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

**L** In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

**C** This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

**L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C** This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

### Sermon: Jesse Tree: Zerubbabel

#### 624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

*sts. 1–4, 7*

**1** The infant Priest was holy born  
For us unholy and forlorn;  
From fleshly temple forth came He,  
Anointed from eternity.

**2** This great High Priest in human flesh  
Was icon of God’s righteousness.  
His hallowed touch brought sanctity;  
His hand removed impurity.

**3** The holy Lamb undaunted came  
To God’s own altar lit with flame;  
While weeping angels hid their eyes,  
This Priest became a sacrifice.

**4 But death would not the victor be  
Of Him who hung upon the tree.  
He leads us to the Holy Place  
Within the veil, before God's face.**

**7 With cherubim and seraphim  
Our voices join the endless hymn,  
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing  
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.**

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## Offering

### Prayer Kyrie

**C Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

*LSB 233*

### 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 of the Day

**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.**

### Collect for Peace

**L 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.**

### Benedicamus

*LSB 234*

**L Let us bless the Lord.  
C Thanks be to God.**

### Benediction

*LSB 234*

**P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
C Amen.**

### 331 The Advent of Our King

**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.**

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1746; to John Chandler, 1805-74; to

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