

## ADVENT ADVERBS: RESOLUTELY

### AS WE GATHER

The season of Advent reminds us that we as individuals are part of the big picture of salvation planned by our God as we reflect on the coming of Christ to earth for us. We are called to be resolute, as in the words of the hymn “To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord”—determined and assured in Christ. We celebrate the season resolutely, sure that in Christ, God has done all that is necessary to keep us in His salvation picture for time and for eternity!

## PREPARATION

### OPENING HYMN “PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY”

#343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing; Your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



*Refrain*  
Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

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### INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### OPENING SENTENCES

*Isaiah 45:8a; Psalm 19:1, 4–6; 112:1b, 7b*

**P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

**C** let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth cause them both to sprout.

- P** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.
- C** **Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.**

- P** In them He has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
- C** **Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

- P** Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments!
- C** **His heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. Praise the LORD!**

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.
- C** **Eternal God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and that sin is ever-present in our lives. O God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin. Redirect and renew us, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, guide us in ways of compassion and love.**

- P** In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in † peace.
- C** **Amen.**

### INTROIT

*Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1*

- P** Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence.
- C** *I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.*
- P** *O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.*
- 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.**

**Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence.**

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- 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** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.  
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

HYMN "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

#357

sts. 1, ref. 6-7



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us  
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y  
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 7:10–17*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## EPISTLE

*Romans 1:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL AND VERSE

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.; Matthew 1:23a*

**P** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

**C** *Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.*

**P** *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless You.*

**C** **Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 1:18–25*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

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

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY “LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES“**

**#340**



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the King of  
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot is hu -  
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the rul - er  
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a tem - ple  
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to Thee; here,



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; The  
mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, His  
is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes To  
set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, A -  
Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine; Thy



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion  
scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our  
whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of  
dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - reign  
face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To  
woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings. To  
joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free. To  
en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin. To  
guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.  
God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!  
ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

## CREED

*Nicene Creed*

**☩ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

We pray for the Church as it awaits the final Advent of our Lord, that through it, the message of salvation be proclaimed, and the gifts of God be shared. And we pray for the nations of the world, that we may know times of peace and may with thankful hearts enjoy the blessings we receive.

- P** As we anticipate the joys of Christmastide, we pray for our family of faith and for all Christian people in God's kingdom around the world. Help us to share confidently the blessings that we know in Christ both within our family circles and beyond them.
- P** We pray for those things needed by us as part of what we know to be our daily bread. And we remember people with special needs and concerns this day, especially the hospitalized, the grieving, the unemployed, and all on our hearts for whom our petitions are desired, *including Hedy, Jean, Ray, Rose, Sue, Wally, Dana, Kaylee, Kris, Jen, John, Jonathan, Leah, Rod, and Tim*. Help us to share love without limit and offer forgiveness as we have been loved and forgiven by our gracious Lord.
- P** We pray that we will not succumb to the many temptations that surround us in this and every season, and we ask that we be delivered from every evil. Inspired by and thankful for the witness of faithful Christians in times past, grant that we be led in paths of faith and faithfulness.
- P** With thankfulness, we ask God's blessing on all who brighten these darkening days of the year—the shopworkers and postal clerks, the musicians and carolers, the delivery people and all those who work long hours in these days. Grant that we be truly appreciative of all those who carry out their vocations for the betterment of our lives, and direct us to bring glory to God in all that we say and do.

**C** Amen

## LORD'S SUPPER

### PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

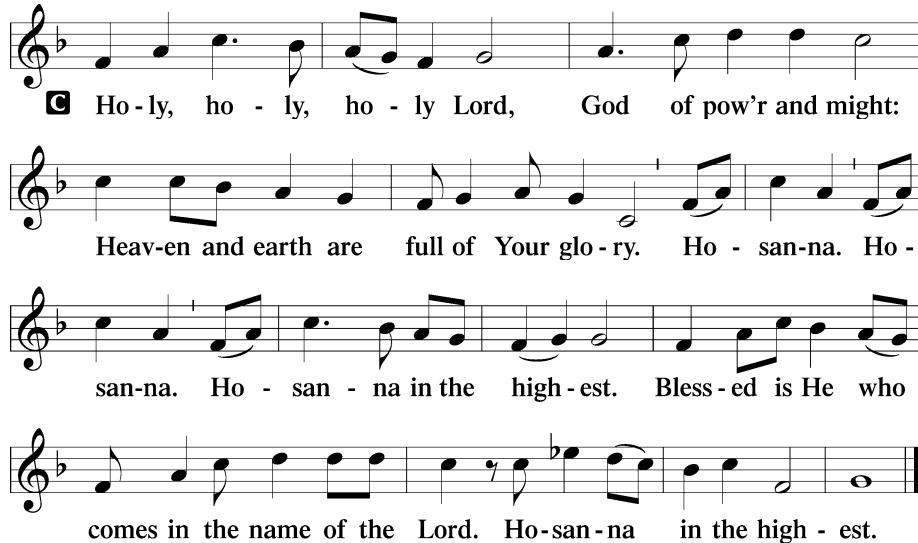
## PROPER PREFACE

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord, our God, for You have had mercy on us and sent Your only-begotten Son, the long hoped-for Messiah, to bring us salvation. Pour out upon us the gifts of Your Spirit, that we may receive Your blessings joyfully and resolutely serve You in all we do. Grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as the guarantee of our salvation and as a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## SANCTUS

LSB 161



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, who in giving Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to accomplish our salvation has fulfilled the hope of the prophets and of Your people for countless generations. We thank You for calling us to be Your people in this time and place and for inviting us to Your holy Table. Joined together in the name of our Lord and in the communion of saints, we pray You to send Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

## 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.**

### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

### PAX DOMINI

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### AGNUS DEI

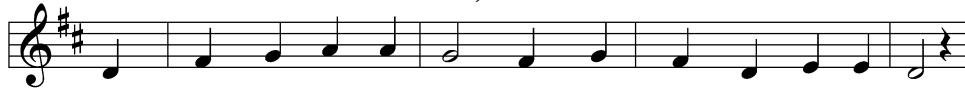
LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

### DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU"

#334



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
 3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.  
 4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
 And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new  
 A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
 And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.  
 That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en 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 blessèd 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.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
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## THANK THE LORD

LSB 164



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, to whom, with You and the same Spirit, be all honor and glory, forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN “THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS” #348**



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.  
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.  
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.  
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

Text and tune: Public domain

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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