

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546; (sts. 1-2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812-76; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001

Trune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
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Please stand as you are able.

Opening Versicles - Advent

LSB 260

- This is the day which the Lord has made;
- let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- **L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- **C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- C Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.
- **L** Prepare the way of the Lord.
- **C** Make His paths straight.
- Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.
- **C** Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.
- From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- 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.

Please be seated.

Old Testament Canticle

LSB 261

C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted."

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.

Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

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.

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1-5

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 139:1-14

- P O LORD, you have searched me and known me!
- You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar.
- P You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways.
- **C** Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.
- P You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
- Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it.
- **P** Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?
- If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!
- P If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.
- P If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"
- even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.
- **P** For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
- I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was I the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle Reading 1 Peter 1:8–12

⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

¹⁰Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, ¹¹inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. ¹²It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

A This is the Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18–23

¹⁸Now 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. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us).

Responsory - Advent LSB 263

- L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
- This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.
- L He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- 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.
- This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Please stand as you are able.

Catechism

Ten Commandments

C You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. 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.

Please be seated.

Catechetical Review

The Apostles' Creed - The Third Article

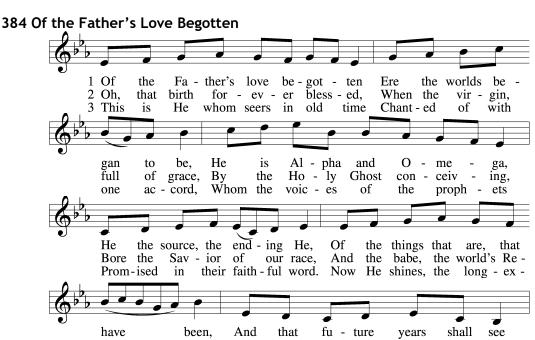
- **P** The Third Article.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.
- **P** What does this mean?
- I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

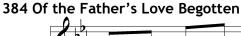
This is most certainly true.





Ev - er - more and ev - er - more Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-c. 413; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon





Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand as you are able.

sts. 4–5

sts. 1−3

Prayer

- **L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **L** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **L** For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- **L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Collect of the Day

- Let us pray. Almighty God, for the gift of life, for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, and the new and everlasting life we have in Him; for Your Holy Spirit and the good news that He brings to our hearts; for the gift of Your family, the Holy Christian Church, and our place in this family; and for Your patient, unrelenting grace, there is nothing that we can give You that You have need of; but we ask that You would accept our heartflet thanks and praise. In the name of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Collect for the Word

- E Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Please pray the prayer that is appropriate for the time of day that you are worshiping.

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings in life may please You. For into You hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into You hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

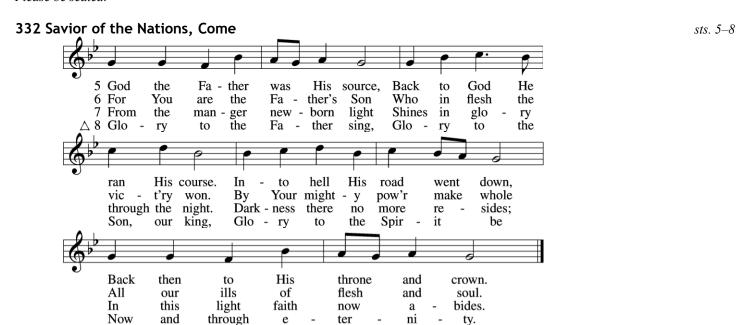
Benedicamus LSB 267

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

Benediction LSB 267

- The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

Please be seated.



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