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Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt Text and tune: Public domain

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Please stand as you are able.

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Opening Versicles

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

First Reading John 3:1–15

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

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

Psalmody

- Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!
- For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?
- P Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!
- Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.
- Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.
- 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.

Second Reading 1 Peter 1:3–9

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 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.

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

Responsory

- **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

Holy Baptism - Third Part

- P How can water do such great things?
- Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5–8)

Sermon





Please stand as you are able.

Prayer

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

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- **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.
- **L** 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

- P O God our Father, You have saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal, which You have poured out on us in our Baptism into Your Son. We thank You for this life-giving water, rich in grace by Your trustworthy promise. Give us faith always to trust Your Word in the water that, justified by grace, we remain heirs of eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- 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 and life may please You. For into Your 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.

Luther's Evening Prayer

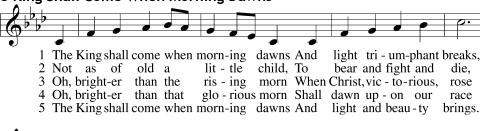
I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your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

Blessing

- **L** Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.
- The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C Amen.

Please be seated.

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns





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

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