



Master Order of Service

Advent Midweek III

When the Christ Appears (Advent Series)

December 18, 2024

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE OPENING LITURGY

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

C Amen

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

C The Light no darkness can overcome.

P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C And the day is almost over.

P The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

C Let us rejoice and sing God's praise forever.

P O God, make speed to save us,

C O Lord, make haste to help us.

P Lead Your people to freedom, O God.

C And banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

THE HYMN

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" (LSB #348)

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| 1 | The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes. | 3 | Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes. |
| 2 | Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky. | 4 | Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face. |

5 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.
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THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets” and the apostles. Tonight, we hear the words of the apostle Peter. Encouraging steadfastness of faith, he spoke of the day of the Lord coming like a thief in the night. It is a timeless message as we abide in the anticipation of the appearance of the Christ. Thus, let us heed the voice of the apostle, confessing our sin so as to be prepared when the Christ appears.
- P** Lord Jesus, You have fulfilled the words of the prophets which prepared the world for Your Incarnation.
- C** **We thank and praise You for this visitation by which You have saved us from our sin by Your birth, life, death and resurrection.**
- P** Lord Jesus, You have promised through the words of the apostles which prepares the world for Your return.
- C** **We thank and praise You for the hope that we have in that day when You will deliver us from the brokenness of this world.**
- P** Lord Jesus, bless us with Your Spirit so that we may abide in true repentance, being ever ready that day when You shall appear.
- C** **We confess before You our sinfulness and that we are not truly prepared for Your appearance. Our thoughts have not been of You; our deeds have not shown love for You or others; our words have been callous and uncaring. Lord, we repent of our sin. Forgive us and send Your Holy Spirit to produce in us works in keeping with repentance.**
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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.
- C** **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P O almighty God, grant us the blessing of Your Holy Spirit so that, enlightened by Your Word, we may be taught during this Advent season what it means to wait patiently for coming of Your Son. Keep us watchful, sober-minded and steadfast in courage as we face daily trial and temptation to the end that when Your Son comes we may truly rejoice in being delivered from this sin-broken world; 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 be seated)

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Leviticus 19:9-18

⁹ "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. ¹⁰ And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

¹¹ "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. ¹² You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD.

¹³ "You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. ¹⁴ You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

¹⁵ "You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the LORD.

¹⁷ "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (LSB #842)

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|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart. | 2 | Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne. |
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Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
Text: Public domain

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 13:8-10

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

THE SERMON HYMN

"How Wide the Love of Christ" (LSB #535)

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| 1 | How wide the love of Christ!
It knows not class or race
But holds our one humanity
Within its broad embrace. | 3 | How high the love of Christ!
Beyond all thought it soars,
And yet upon our passing lives
Unmeasured mercy pours. |
| 2 | How long the love of Christ!
Its patience will not cease
Until this broken world is bound
In everlasting peace. | 4 | How deep the love of Christ,
Descending to a cross!
He bears within His wounded hands
All human pain and loss. |
| 5 | | | |
| All praise to You, O Christ,
For love whose depth and height,
Whose length and breadth fill time and space
With endless life and light! | | | |

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007
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THE SERMON

(please stand)

THE APOSTLES' 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.

(please be seated)

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

(please stand)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition of the prayers will end with...

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

The prayers will conclude with...

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

THE SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE SALUTATION & PRAYER

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

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 is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me."

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

(please be seated)

Distribution 1 : "Emmanuel (Advent Hymn)" (by Matt Weeks)

Distribution 2 : LSB #352 "Love in Christ Is Strong and Living"

(please stand)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Almighty and everlasting God, we thank and praise You for feeding us the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send us Your Holy Spirit that, having with our mouths received the holy Sacrament we may by faith enjoy Your divine grace and abide in the new life which You have given to us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

C Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN

"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (LSB #700)

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.
- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish then Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88
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