

# Midweek Advent Service

## December 16, 2020

**P** The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

**C** Amen.

**P** It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

**C** to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

**P** to herald Your love in the morning,

**C** Your truth at the close of the day.

### Hymn #342

### What Hope! An Eden Prophesied



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,  
3 As ban-ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth-le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral-ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an-gel's flam-ing sword—Come, o - pen heav-en's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke; tune: *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part Second, 1813; text: © 1998 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: CCLI no. 11373734; tune: public domain

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**P** Holy and gracious God,

**C** I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

**P** By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.

**C** Amen.

<sup>1</sup>And the angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep. <sup>2</sup>And he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. <sup>3</sup>And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left." <sup>4</sup>And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" <sup>5</sup>Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>7</sup>Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'"

<sup>8</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>9</sup>"The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. <sup>10</sup>For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel.

"These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth." <sup>11</sup>Then I said to him, "What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?" <sup>12</sup>And a second time I answered and said to him, "What are these two branches of the olive trees, which are beside the two golden pipes from which the golden oil is poured out?" <sup>13</sup>He said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." <sup>14</sup>Then he said, "These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

2 Timothy 1:1–12

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup>I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. <sup>4</sup>As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup>for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

<sup>8</sup>Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup>and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, <sup>11</sup>for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, <sup>12</sup>which is why I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn #338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (*to the tune Hyfrydol*)

- 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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## Sermon

## Prayer

**P** Hear my prayer, O Lord;

**C** listen to my cry.

**P** Keep me as the apple of Your eye;

**C** hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

**P** In righteousness I shall see You;

**C** when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.

**P** Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.

## Benediction

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless you and keep you.

**C** Amen.

# Hymn #380

# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



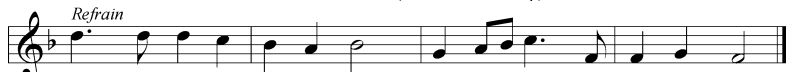
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

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