



Wait Upon the Lord

Wait Upon the Lord With Faith

As We Gather

In this first Wait Upon the Lord service for Advent, we wait upon the Lord with faith. Abraham and Sarah waited with faith for the birth of their son, Isaac, and we wait with faith for the birth of God's Son, Jesus, trusting that he will come at Christmas to save all people.

And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you." Galatians

Invocation and Call to Worship

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous.

P Wait upon the Lord. That's what Abraham did, even though he was about a hundred years old.

C And Sarah's womb was barren.

P Still, Abraham waited in faith.

C Fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

Opening Hymn "The Advent of Our King" LSB 331

**The advent of our King
our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
in strains of holy joy.**

**The everlasting Son
incarnate deigns to be;
Himself a servant's form puts on
to set his servants free.**

**O Zion's Daughter, rise
to meet thy lowly King,
Nor let thy faithless heart despise
the peace he comes to bring.**

**As Judge, on clouds of light,
he soon will come again,
And his true members all unite
with him in heav'n to reign.**

**All glory to the Son
who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever One,
through all eternity.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C **We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and sometimes with you. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray from your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous, we ask you, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and keep us patiently waiting for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(You are invited to meditate on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.)

P Believe and receive the good news! God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all people. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of + Christ who came and indeed, will come again.

C **Amen.**

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

Candle Lighting

Kyrie

Choir & Congregation "Wait for the Lord"

C Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.

**Wait for the Lord:
be strong, take heart!**

L Prepare the way for the Lord.
Make a straight path for God.
Prepare the way for the Lord.

C Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.

**Wait for the Lord:
be strong, take heart!**

L I waited for the Lord.
God heard my cry.

C Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.

**Wait for the Lord:
be strong, take heart!**

L Rejoice in the Lord always.
God is at hand.

Joy and gladness

For all who seek the Lord.

C Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.

**Wait for the Lord:
be strong, take heart!**

L Seek first the kingdom of God,
seek and you shall find.

**☐ Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord:
be strong, take heart!**

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taize Community, 1984, Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Prayer of the Day

O Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Be our strength every morning and our salvation in the night of despair. Show forth your power and might, just as you did in the days of Abraham and Sarah; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit—God forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading ... Genesis 17:1-9

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God." And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations.

Epistle Reading ... Romans 4:13-21

For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

Gospel Acclamation

P Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

C **Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. Hallelujah!**

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 1:16-25

And Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. 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. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus."

Sermon Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" LSB 340

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!

Behold, the King of Glory waits;

The King of kings is drawing near,

the Savior of the world is here.

Life and salvation he doth bring,

wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:

We praise thee, Father, now,

Creator, wise art thou!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;

make it a temple set apart

From earthly use for heav'n's employ,

adorned with prayer and love and joy.

**So shall your Sov'reign enter in
and new and nobler life begin.
To thee, O God, be praise
for word and deed and grace!**

**Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thine inner presence feel,
thy grace and love in me reveal;
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
we offer to thy name.**

Sermon

"Wait Upon the Lord with Faith" Genesis 17: 1-9

Offertory

Prayers

P Heavenly Father, we wait for you.

C **More than watchmen wait for the morning—**

P More than watchmen wait for the morning.

C **Lead us in your truth and teach us.**

P For you are the God of our salvation.

C **For you we wait all the day long.**

P O God, inspire us to wait for you faithfully.

C **Serve you joyfully.**

P And give to others generously.

C Gracious Lord, grant healing for the sick.

P Courage for the fainthearted.

C Hope for the discouraged.

P And great clarity for all in the valley of decision.

C 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.**

Benediction

P May God give us the faith of Abraham, the hope of Isaiah, the joy of Elizabeth, and the gratitude of Zechariah. God will make us strong and courageous. As

we wait upon the Lord... May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May He look upon with favor and + give you peace.

C As we wait upon the Lord! Amen.

Closing Hymn "Savior of the Nations, Come" LSB 332

**Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's Son, make here thy home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
that the Lord chose such a birth.**

**Not by human flesh and blood;
by the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh,
woman's offspring, pure and fresh.**

**Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
of the virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned,
still to be in heav'n enthroned.**

**Thou, the Father's only Son,
hast o'er sin the vict'ry won.
Boundless shall thy kingdom be;
when shall we its glories see?**