Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Advent 2020

TODAY'S FOCUS

Our Advent 2020 theme is "COME LORD JESUS!" Like the common table prayer, we prepare for the Lord's second coming (and our Christmas celebrations of Jesus' first coming). How? We pray for and live as Jesus is close to us through all circumstances. Our focus this Wednesday is "COME, LORD JESUS, be our *Grace-giver*."

OPENING SENTENCES Jeremiah 23:5–6; Acts 2:34–35; Luke 1:32–33

- P Jeremiah wrote, "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
- And this is the name by which He will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'"
- P David wrote, "The Lord said to my Lord,
- 'Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool.'"
- P Gabriel told Mary, "The Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David,
- and of His kingdom there will be no end."

THE GREAT O ANTIPHON

P One of the Great O Antiphons, to be used during the week preceding Christmas, calls Jesus the

Key of David.

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel,

You open and no one can close,

You close and no one can open:

- Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.
- O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (ADVENT 1)
- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

- O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home;
 - Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. **REFRAIN**
- O David's Son and David's Lord, Be here and ev'rywhere adored.

From us remove rebellious sin; Thy endless reign to usher in. **REFRAIN**

+ READINGS +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 32 NIV

- 1 Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
- 2 Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.
- 3 When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- 4 For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.
- 6 Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.
- 7 You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.
- 8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.
- 9 Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.
- 10 Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.
- 11 Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

- The angel Gabriel tells Zechariah that his son will prepare a people for the LORD, but Zechariah doubts and pays a price for his unbelief. A reading from Luke, chapter 1.
- 18 Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years."
- 19 The angel said to him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. 20 And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."
- 21 Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. 22 When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.
- 23 When his time of service was completed, he returned home. 24 After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. 25 "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people."
- L O Lord, have mercy on us.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

- P I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
- and of His kingdom there will be no end.
- P God has made Him both Lord and Christ,
- and of His kingdom there will be no end.
- P He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High,
- and of His kingdom there will be no end.
- In the last stanza of the next hymn, we echo the acclamations of Palm Sunday and look toward praising our King in eternity.

LSB 350 COME, THOU PRECIOUS RANSOM, COME sts. 1-2, 4

1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,

Only hope for sinful mortals!

Come, O Savior of the world!

Open are to Thee all portals.

Come, Thy beauty let us see;

Anxiously we wait for Thee.

2 Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy. Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly. Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
 Jesus, hear our supplication!
 Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
 Bring us blessing and salvation,
 That forever we may sing:
 Hail! Hosanna to our King.

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SERMON: COME LORD JESUS, BE OUR GRACE-GIVER (ADVENT, PART 2)

+ PRAYER +

COLLECT FOR TODAY

- P Lord Jesus, Son of David, in You the Father's promise of an eternal throne for David came true.
- Grant us lively faith to serve You each day, aware of the citizenship in Your kingdom, which You won for us by Your obedient life, sacrificial death, and glorious resurrection.

- P Son of David,
- **C** hear our prayer.

COLLECT FROM SUNDAY

- P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,
- that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance;
- for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C 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 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.

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

- The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the
 → Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.
- C Amen.

sts. 1, 3-4

- Once He came in blessing,
 All our sins redressing;
 Came in likeness lowly,
 Son of God most holy;
 Bore the cross to save us;
 Hope and freedom gave us.
- 3 Soon will come that hour When with mighty power Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render, With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.
- 4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us. Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving, Ever may confess You. Till in heav'n we bless You.

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