

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? Invite Jesus into all your struggle, not just your suppers. Our focus this third Wednesday of Advent is "**COME, LORD JESUS, be our CHAMPION.**"

CHRISTMAS HYMN SING

LSB 348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns, sts. 1,4

LSB 368 Angels We Have Heard on High , sts. 1,3

LSB 376 Once in Royal David's City, sts. 1,4

LSB 331 THE ADVENT OF OUR KING

sts. 1–3, 6

- 1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.
- 2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.
- 3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.
- △ 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

GRADUAL

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

G **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

G **righteous and having salvation.**

P Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

G **From the house of the Lord we bless You.**

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (ADVENT 3)

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. **REFRAIN**

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

2 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. **REFRAIN**

3 O come, our Brother, enter in,
Though this world teems with scand'lous sin.
With fallen sinners in Thy tree,
We find ourselves forgiven, free. **REFRAIN**

+ READINGS +

ISAIAH 9:1–7

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

² The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

³ You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.

⁴ For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

⁵ Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:67–79

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁶⁸ “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn^[a] of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David

⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

⁷¹ salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—

72 to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,
73 the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
74 to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
76 And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most
High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for
him,
77 to give his people the knowledge of salvation
through the forgiveness of their sins,
78 because of the tender mercy of our God,
by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven
79 to shine on those living in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

RESPONSORY Based on 2 Samuel 12:24; Titus 3:5; Mark 1:8

P When the way is dark or dangerous,

C **God guide us and walks with us.**

P The path is steep and challenging,

C **Jesus guides us and walks with us**

P Through Word and Sacrament, Spirit and song

C **God guides us and walks with us each step of life.**

LSB 338 COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

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: COME LORD JESUS, BE OUR CHAMPION!

+ PRAYER +

COLLECT FOR TODAY

- P** Lord Jesus, the people included in Your family tree dealt with scandalous sin within and around them, and yet from them You graciously entered human history.
- C** **Help us to see Your grace at work in us, we who have been grafted into Your family tree by Baptism. Strengthen us to truly be Your forgiven and adopted brothers and sisters.**
- P** Son of scandal,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

- C** **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

BENEDICTION

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

LSB 785 WE PRAISE YOU, O GOD

- 1 We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before You, we kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.
- 2 We worship You, God of our fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o’ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.
- 3 With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide
us.
To You, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

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