

SONGS FOR THE SEASON, PART 1 "COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS"

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

4 p.m. Advent Midweek Worship

TODAY'S FOCUS

"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus." We continue Advent 2021 with a look at some beloved Advent and Christmas songs. Today, we are waiting and longing for change as much as they were back in the time before Jesus' birth. Come close and marvel again at God's answer to our longings.

LSB 332 SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME sts. 1–3, 7–8

1 Savior of the nations, come, Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 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.

3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown: God was there upon His throne.

7 From the manger newborn light Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.

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INVOCATION

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

G Amen.

P O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?

C **Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!**

P In this Advent season, reflecting on and anticipating the joy to come when heaven met earth through the promised and long-awaited Savior, we seek answers to our questions as we remain on this earth.

LSB 334 O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU

st. 1

1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,
 How welcome You aright?
 Your people long to greet You,
 My hope, my heart's delight!
 O kindle, Lord most holy,
 Your lamp within my breast
 To do in spirit lowly
 All that may please You best.

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COLLECT

Thanksgiving for Light

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LSB 341 LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES

st. 1

1 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;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

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PSALM

Psalm 24:1–4, 7–10

P The earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein,

C **for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.**

P Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

C **And who shall stand in His holy place?**

P He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

Lift up your heads, O gates!

C **And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

P Who is this King of glory?

C **The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates!**

P And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?

C **The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

LSB 341 LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES

st. 3

3 How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

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PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

READING

Luke 1:5–17 NIV

⁵ In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶ Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷ But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

⁸ Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰ And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

¹¹ Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. ¹³ But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. ¹⁴ He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. ¹⁶ He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

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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MESSAGE: SONGS OF THE SEASON, PART 1: COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS"

OUR PRAYERS

CREEDAL RESPONSE

The Second Article

P The season of Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at His second coming. It is a time of reflection on redemption. Luther's Small Catechism, useful for individual and household learning through questions and answers based on God's unchanging Word, reminds us of Jesus' incarnation into this world, the totality of Christ's complete work, and the redemption He achieved for us. We confess together:

C **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.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

ADVENT COLLECT

P Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility; that on the Last Day, when He shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

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.

BENEDICTION

☐ The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

☐ Amen.

- 1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

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