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**Wednesday December 3, 2025**

***Preaching and Presiding: Rev. Dr. Paul Steinberg***  
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Stand

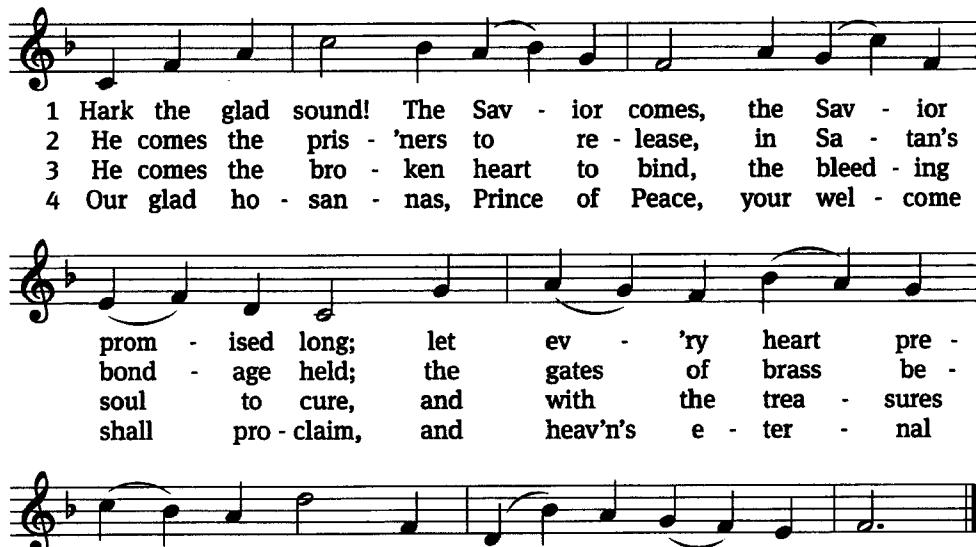
## Opening Sentences

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
the light no darkness can overcome.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
and the day is almost over.

Be our light and scatter the darkness,  
and hear our evening prayer and praise.

## 12 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to\_en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751, abr., alt.

Tune: Thomas Hawells, 1734-1820, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Be seated

## Psalm Prayer

Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Psalm 150 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Psalm 150 p. 122

*Refrain*



*Tone*



Praise God in his sanctu- / ary;  
praise him in his mighty / heavens.  
Praise him for his acts of / power;  
praise him for his surpassing / greatness. *Refrain*

Praise him with the sounding of the / trumpet,  
praise him with the / harp and lyre,  
praise him with timbrel and / dancing,  
praise him with the / strings and pipe,  
praise him with the clash of / cymbals,  
praise him with resounding / cymbals. *Refrain*

Let everything that has breath / praise the LORD.

Praise / the LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**

**and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Tune: Walter L. Pelz

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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## Psalm Prayer

Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word.  
Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and  
hereafter; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**1Praise the LORD.**

**Praise the LORD, you his servants;**

**praise the name of the LORD.**

**2Let the name of the LORD be praised,**

**both now and forevermore.**

**3From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,**

**the name of the LORD is to be praised.**

**4The LORD is exalted over all the nations,**

**his glory above the heavens.**

**5Who is like the LORD our God,**

**the One who sits enthroned on high,**

**6who stoops down to look**

**on the heavens and the earth?**

**7He raises the poor from the dust**

**and lifts the needy from the ash heap;**

**8he seats them with princes,**

**with the princes of his people.**

**9He settles the childless woman in her home**

**as a happy mother of children.**

Praise the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon – Sing this Advent for the LORD’s Past Works

### Sermon Text p. 1579

Luke 1:39–56

<sup>39</sup>At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup>where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord  
    <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
    <sup>48</sup>for he has been mindful  
        of the humble state of his servant.  
From now on all generations will call me blessed,  
    <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
        holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup>His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
        from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
        he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.  
<sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
        but has lifted up the humble.  
<sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things  
        but has sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
        remembering to be merciful  
<sup>55</sup>to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
        just as he promised our ancestors.”

<sup>56</sup>Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

## Song of Mary

CW p. 57

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-  
joic - es in God my Sav - ior, for he has looked with fa - vor  
on his low - ly ser - vant. From this day all gen - er - a - tions  
will call me bless - ed. The Al - might - y has done great  
things for me, and ho - ly is his name. He has mer - cy on  
those who fear him in ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion.  
He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat - tered the  
proud in their con - ceit. He has cast down the might - y

from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.

He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich

he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the

help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his

prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,

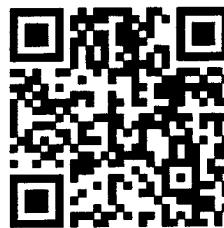
to A - bra-ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert

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## Love Offerings and Generous Donations

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## Prayer of the Church in Advent

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**Come, Lord Jesus! 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.**

## **Benedicamus**

**Let us praise the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.**

## **Blessing**

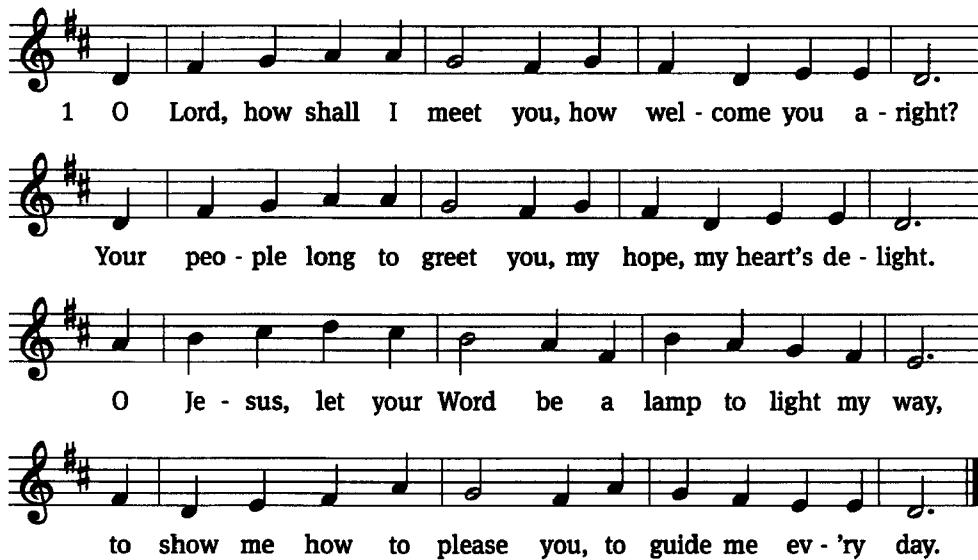
**The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of  
the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## 18 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CW 18



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you a-right?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight.  
O Jesus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,  
to show me how to please you, to guide me ev-ry day.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr.; tr. composite

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

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**Midweek Advent Worship in Hoffmann Hall:**

**Wednesdays December 10 & 17**

**5:30 Meal**

**6:30 Worship**

**School Christmas Program:**

**Sunday December 21 10 AM**

**Christmas Eve: 4 PM**

**Christmas Day: 10 AM**



**CHRISTMAS**

**•Worship•**