



For unto us a

*Child*  
*is born*

ISAIAH 9:6

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

**P** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering,

**C** For he who promised is faithful. (*Heb. 10:23*)

**P** He settles the barren woman in her home

**C** as a happy mother of children. (*Ps. 113:9*)

**P** Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy you who were never in labor;

**C** because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband, says the LORD. (*Is. 54:1*)

**P** The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises,

**C** and is faithful in all he does. (*Ps. 145:13*)

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

LSB 809

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.  
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. *Refrain*

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

*Refrain*

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

## Confession and Absolution

**P** We gather to prepare our hearts for the Lord of Advent: the Messiah who comes into the world and into our hearts. He tells us to be watchful for his coming, and he himself prepares us. His Spirit abides in us so that our hearts may be cleansed by his power. Trusting in the mercy of his judgment, we therefore confess our sin to the Lord.

*We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.*

**P** Lord, have mercy on us;

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Christ, have mercy on us;

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Lord, have mercy on us;

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Hear the Good News which the angels proclaimed: Jesus, the Messiah, is the son of our loving God. He takes away the sin of the world, and he takes away our fear. The message of the prophets is fulfilled in his coming. The Good News of Christmas is that God's child has come to live among us to save us from sin and fear.

**C** **Amen.**

## First Reading

*Genesis 29:25-30:1-9;22-24*

<sup>25</sup> When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?"

<sup>26</sup> Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. <sup>27</sup> Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work."

<sup>28</sup> And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. <sup>29</sup> Laban gave his servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her attendant. <sup>30</sup> Jacob made love to Rachel also, and his love for Rachel was greater than his love for Leah. And he worked for Laban another seven years.

<sup>31</sup> When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive, but Rachel remained childless. <sup>32</sup> Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben, for she said, "It is because the Lord has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love

me now.”

<sup>30</sup> When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, “Give me children, or I’ll die!”

<sup>2</sup> Jacob became angry with her and said, “Am I in the place of God, who has kept you from having children?”

<sup>3</sup> Then she said, “Here is Bilhah, my servant. Sleep with her so that she can bear children for me and I too can build a family through her.”

<sup>4</sup> So she gave him her servant Bilhah as a wife. Jacob slept with her, <sup>5</sup> and she became pregnant and bore him a son. <sup>6</sup> Then Rachel said, “God has vindicated me; he has listened to my plea and given me a son.” Because of this she named him Dan.

<sup>7</sup> Rachel’s servant Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son. <sup>8</sup> Then Rachel said, “I have had a great struggle with my sister, and I have won.” So she named him Naphtali.

<sup>22</sup> Then God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and enabled her to conceive. <sup>23</sup> She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, “God has taken away my disgrace.” <sup>24</sup> She named him Joseph, and said, “May the Lord add to me another son.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Advent Kyrie

**P** Restore us, O God of hosts.

**C** Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** Give us peace and strength in our days.

**C** Come, Christ Jesus.

**P** Be present with us, and we shall be saved.

**C** Come, Lord Jesus, and do not be slow.

## Second Reading

*1 Samuel 1-20;24-28*

<sup>1</sup> There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. <sup>2</sup> He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.

<sup>3</sup> Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. <sup>4</sup> Whenever

the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. <sup>5</sup> But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb. <sup>6</sup> Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. <sup>7</sup> This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. <sup>8</sup> Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" <sup>9</sup> Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord's house. <sup>10</sup> In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. <sup>11</sup> And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." <sup>12</sup> As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. <sup>13</sup> Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk <sup>14</sup> and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine." <sup>15</sup> "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. <sup>16</sup> Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." <sup>17</sup> Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." <sup>18</sup> She said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast. <sup>19</sup> Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the Lord and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. <sup>20</sup> So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the Lord for him." <sup>24</sup> After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he

was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. <sup>25</sup> When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, <sup>26</sup> and she said to him, “Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. <sup>27</sup> I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. <sup>28</sup> So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord.” And he worshiped the Lord there.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Advent Versicles

**P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**C** Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** All those who await his appearance pray:

**C** Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** The whole creation pleads:

**C** Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** 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.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 1:1-20 ;24-28

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly. <sup>7</sup> But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.

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

<sup>11</sup> Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> 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.”

<sup>18</sup> Zechariah asked the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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.”

<sup>21</sup> Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. <sup>22</sup> 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.

<sup>23</sup> When his time of service was completed, he returned home. <sup>24</sup> After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. <sup>25</sup> “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.”

<sup>27</sup> When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. <sup>28</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.

<sup>29</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, <sup>30</sup> but his mother spoke up and said, “No! He is to be called John.”

<sup>31</sup> They said to her, “There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”

<sup>32</sup> Then they made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child. <sup>33</sup> He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote, “His name is John.” <sup>34</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue set free, and he began to speak, praising God. <sup>35</sup> All the neighbors

were filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea people were talking about all these things. <sup>66</sup> Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, “What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*For All the Faithful Women*

*LSB 855*

(tune 660)

- 1** For all the faithful women  
Who served in days of old,  
To You shall thanks be given;  
To all, their story told.  
They served with strength and gladness  
In tasks Your wisdom gave.  
To You their lives bore witness,  
Proclaimed Your pow’r to save.
- 6** To Hannah praying childless  
Before Your throne of grace,  
You gave a son and called him  
To serve before Your face.  
Grant us her perseverance:  
Lord, teach us how to pray  
And trust in Your deliv’rance  
When darkness hides our way.
- 3** O God, for saints and servants,  
Those named and those unknown  
In whom through all the ages  
Your light of glory shone,  
We offer glad thanksgiving  
And fervent prayer we raise  
That, faithful in Your service,  
Our lives may sing Your praise.

**Homily**

## **Creed**

### ***The Second Article/Redemption***

**¶** I believe 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 both the living and the dead.

*What does this mean?*

**¶** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all 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.

## **Offering**

### **Offering Prayer**

**¶** Let us pray. Lord of Advent,

**¶** Accept the offerings we bring this day, the work of our hands, the gifts of our labor, our lives to serve you. Gladden our hearts as we watch for your coming and help us to share that gladness with all. Amen.

## **Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 251*

## Litany for Christ's Coming

**P** As the days of Advent hasten on and we draw nearer to the day of Christ's coming, let us pray with fervent hearts for the needs of the world:

**C** Come, Lord Jesus, and do not tarry.

**P** Lord Christ, in joy and anticipation, we await your coming with lamps lighted and hearts aglow with faith.

**C** Come now and illumine the whole universe.

**P** All creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

**C** Come soon and save those who wait in darkness.

**P** The suffering and the poor look to you for their hope.

**C** Come and raise us to glory in your presence.

**P** The troubled and oppressed have nowhere to turn but to you.

**C** Come quickly and banish the powers of evil and darkness around us.

**P** The sick and weary, the dying and faint-hearted cry out in their despair.

**C** Come and bring us eternal wholeness and health.

**P** Even the martyrs and the blessed dead make their plea, "O Lord, how long?"

**C** Come now and give us eternal life.

**P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**C** Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** All those who await your appearance pray:

**C** Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** The whole creation pleads:

**C** Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** O God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness.

**C** Come, Lord Jesus.

**P** Hearken to the prayers of your servants, Lord Jesus. By the sign of the manger of Bethlehem, give us hope in the promise of your return. Come quickly, Lord, and bring us to the joys of heaven, where we will praise you with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

**C** Amen.

## *Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart*

LSB 806

**1** Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ His Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ His Son.  
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich,"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"  
Let the poor say "I am rich,"  
Because of what the Lord has done for us.  
Give thanks, give thanks.

### **Benediction**

**P** May God be with you as you keep watch for the One whose Advent is promised. May God embolden your witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way. May you be found ready and alert at Christ's return, at peace in body, mind and spirit, and doing his will. May God almighty, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### **Dismissal**

**P** The Lord is coming soon. Come, Lord, and do not tarry.

**C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.



**SPIRIT of CHRIST**  
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Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another, reaching out to all people,  
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