



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 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
C **I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”** (*Is. 41:10*)
P Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.
C **Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.** (*Jos. 1:9*)
P Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,
C **for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.** (*Ps. 23:4*)
P And surely I am with you always,
C **to the very end of the age.** (*Mat. 28:20b*)
P The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises,
C **and is faithful in all he does.** (*Ps. 145:13*)

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

LSB 352

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,
 Who has truly kept His word
 And at last to us did send
 Christ, the sinner’s help and friend.
- 2 What the fathers most desired,
 What the prophets’ heart inspired,
 What they longed for many_a year,
 Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- 3 Abram’s promised great reward,
 Zion’s helper, Jacob’s Lord—
 Him of twofold race behold—
 Truly came, as long foretold.

**6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.**

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our bondage to sin.

C **Merciful Father, we confess that we are under the power of sin and live in its dominion. Through Jesus, overthrow the power of sin in our lives and let your forgiving love reign. Amen.**

P Saint Paul says in Colossians, “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”

(Colossians 2:13-15)

In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen! Thanks be to God!

Old Testament Reading

Hosea 1:2- 2:1

² When the LORD began to speak through Hosea, the LORD said to him, “Go, marry a promiscuous woman and have children with her, for like an adulterous wife this land is guilty of unfaithfulness to the LORD.” ³ So he married Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

⁴ Then the LORD said to Hosea, “Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. ⁵ In that day I will break Israel’s bow in the Valley of Jezreel.”

⁶ Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the LORD said to Hosea, “Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means “not loved”), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them. ⁷ Yet I will show love to Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the LORD their God, will save them.”

⁸ After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. ⁹ Then the LORD said, “Call him Lo-Ammi (which means “not my people”), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.

¹⁰ “Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘children of the living God.’ ¹¹ The people of Judah and the people of Israel will come together; they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel.

² “Say of your brothers, ‘My people,’ and of your sisters, ‘My loved one.’

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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:1-17, 8:1-8

⁷ When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it.

² Now the house of David was told, “Aram has allied itself with Ephraim”; so the hearts of Ahaz and his people were shaken, as the trees of the forest are shaken by the wind.

³ Then the LORD said to Isaiah, “Go out, you and your son Shear-Jashub, to meet Ahaz at the end of the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Launderer’s Field. ⁴ Say to him, ‘Be careful, keep calm and don’t be afraid. Do not lose heart because of these two smoldering stubs of firewood—because of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and of the son of Remaliah. ⁵ Aram, Ephraim and Remaliah’s son have plotted your ruin, saying, ⁶ “Let us invade Judah; let us tear it apart and divide it among ourselves, and make the son of Tabeel king over it.” ⁷ Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“It will not take place,
it will not happen,
⁸ for the head of Aram is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is only Rezin.

Within sixty-five years

Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.

¹⁷ The LORD will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria.”

⁸ The LORD said to me, “Take a large scroll and write on it with an ordinary pen: Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz.” ² So I called in Uriah the priest and Zechariah son of Jeberekiah as reliable witnesses for me. ³ Then I made love to the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the LORD said to me, “Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz. ⁴ For before the boy knows how to say ‘My father’ or ‘My mother,’ the wealth of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of Assyria.”

⁵ The LORD spoke to me again:

⁶ “Because this people has rejected
the gently flowing waters of Shiloah
and rejoices over Rezin
and the son of Remaliah,

⁷ therefore the LORD is about to bring against them
the mighty floodwaters of the Euphrates—
the king of Assyria with all his pomp.

It will overflow all its channels,
run over all its banks

⁸ and sweep on into Judah, swirling over it,
passing through it and reaching up to the neck.

Its outspread wings will cover the breadth of your land,
Immanuel!”

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

Matthew 1:18-25

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

O Sing of Christ

LSB 362

1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known

(tune 366)

**The kindness of the Lord,
Eternal Word made flesh and bone
So we could be restored.
Upon our frail humanity
God’s finger chose to trace
The fullness of His deity,
The icon of His grace.**

- 2 What Adam lost, none could reclaim,
And Paradise was barred
Until the second Adam came
To mend what sin had marred.
For when the time was full and right
God sent His only Son;
He came to us as life and light
And our redemption won.**
- 3 He came to that which was His own,
But He was not received;
Yet still through Him God's glory shone,
And some His name believed.
To these He gave the right to be
The heirs of heav'n above,
Born not of human ancestry
But born of God in love.**
- 4 Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell
Among us here on earth
As God with us, Emmanuel,
To bring this holy birth.
Though rich, You willingly became
One with our poverty,
That we might share Your wealth and name
For all eternity!**

Homily

Creed

The Second Article/Redemption

P 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?

C 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

P Let us pray. Lord of Advent,

C 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

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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.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to all the earth!

3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Advent Benediction

P May God be with you as you keep watch for the One whose Advent is promised.

C Amen.

P May God embolden your witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way.

C Amen.

P May you be found ready and alert at Christ's return, at peace in body, mind and spirit, and doing his will.

C Amen.

P And 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
Lutheran Church

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Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another, reaching out to all people,
proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

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