



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 Not one of all the LORD's good promises to the house of Israel failed;

C **Every one was fulfilled.** (*Josh. 21:45*)

P God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind.

C **Has he spoken, and he will not do it? Has he promised, and he will he not fulfill it?** (*Num. 23:19*)

P For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.

C **And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.** (*2 Cor. 1:20*)

P The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises,

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

We Are Called to Stand Together

LSB 828

1 We are called to stand together

(tune 793)

**With the saints of ages past,
With the patriarchs and prophets
In the faith they once held fast;
Promises and hopes they treasured
Now we find fulfilled at last!**

**2 Those whom Jesus called apostles
Journeyed with Him side by side,
Heard His teaching, felt His power,
Saw the way He lived and died;
Then the news of resurrection
They delivered far and wide.**

**3 Through the intervening ages
Round the world the Gospel spread:
Faithful heralds took the message,**

**Guided where the Spirit led;
So the body grew in stature,
Serving Christ, the living head.**

**4 Now in many tongues and cultures
Songs of celebration ring;
Millions who confess our Savior
Honor Him as Lord and King
And, for courage, grace and guidance
Ev'ry day their prayers they bring.**

**5 To each coming generation
Tell the truth, persuade, explain,
Till the time when time is ended,
Till the Savior comes again—
Till the saints are all united
Under Christ's eternal reign!**

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 17:15-19;18:10-15

¹⁵ God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her.”

¹⁷ Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, “Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?” ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, “If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!”

¹⁹ Then God said, “Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

¹³ Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

¹⁵ Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.” But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

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

Genesis 21:1-7

21 Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. 2 Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. 3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. 4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. 6 Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." 7 And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

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.

Third Reading

Hebrews 11:8-12

8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. 9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. 12 And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Thank the Lord

☩ Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.

Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.

He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

God is faithful, God is just; His promises all made for us.

His faithfulness leads us in hope, As we forever proudly claim;

Trustworthy His Word to us, He leads us in His promises.

With shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

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.

Lord's Prayer

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.**

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343

**1 Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story: *Refrain***

***Ref* Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!**

**2 God's people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain***

**3 Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! *Refrain***

**4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: *Refrain***

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
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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