



## Mid-Week Advent 2

### OPENING HYMN: 901

#### INVOCATION

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

**C** Amen.

#### FIRST READING

*Isaiah 9:1–2, 6–7*

<sup>1</sup>But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon His shoulder,  
and His name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of His government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Our Mighty God came into the flesh as one of us, and He knows our needs and weaknesses. Let us therefore confess our sins to our heavenly Father.
- C** **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**
- P** By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.
- C** **Amen.**

## PSALM

*Psalm 24; antiphon: v. 7*

- P** Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. 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? And who shall stand in His holy place?
- C** **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.**
- P** He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- C** **Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**
- P** 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!

**P** Lift up your heads, O gates!

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

**P** Who is this King of glory?

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

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

**Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

**SECOND READING: TITUS 2:11–14**

*Titus 2:11–14*

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup>waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**THIRD READING: JOHN 5:16–18; 8:48–59** *John 5:16–18; 8:48–59*

<sup>16</sup>And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. <sup>17</sup>But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

<sup>18</sup>This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

<sup>48</sup>The Jews answered him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?” <sup>49</sup>Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. <sup>50</sup>Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. <sup>51</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.” <sup>52</sup>The Jews said to him, “Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, ‘If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.’ <sup>53</sup>Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?” <sup>54</sup>Jesus answered, “If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’ <sup>55</sup>But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. <sup>56</sup>Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” <sup>57</sup>So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” <sup>58</sup>Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” <sup>59</sup>So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

*Jeremiah 23:5a, 6*

**P** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

**C** **This is the name by which He will be called:  
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

**P** In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

**C** **This is the name by which He will be called:  
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

**P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C** **This is the name by which He will be called:  
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

## CATECHISM

*The Second Article*

**P** What does it mean that we believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord?

**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.**

SERMON HYMN: 332

## SERMON

## OFFERING

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** Wonderful Counselor, we come to You, Lord Jesus, thankful that You have enlightened us with the counsel of Your wonderful gracious word of forgiveness for all our sins. Help us, we pray, as we interact with people who may be entrapped by their sin, not knowing Your full forgiveness, and unable to rejoice at the anniversary of Your birth.

Wonderful Counselor, use us and all we have, to bring others to hear and believe the Good News. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Mighty God, we come to You in faith, gracious Lord, trusting that You were and are God in the flesh, our Immanuel. Strengthen all who are in distress from the worldly forces that surround them. Assure them of Your presence, strengthen their faith, and lead them to Your home above, where we may all rejoice together in Your love and grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Everlasting Father, we come to You, O Lord, who conquered sin and death as ruler of creation while also serving Your people as a caring Father. Grant us to know always Your eternal presence among us, and help us to amend our lives and pass on the joy of Your eternal forgiveness to our neighbors, friends, and family. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Prince of Peace, we give thanks that You came to earth and paid for all that our sins deserved. Grant us steadfastness of faith to be at peace with one another, knowing that because of Your grace and love for us, we will be with You in eternity. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** These things we pray to You, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Open our eyes, heavenly Father, that we may see all that You have done.

**C** **By coming in the person of Your Son and by His sacrifice for us, You have assured us that the worldly forces around us shall be a thing of the past when Your Spirit ushers us into Your eternal presence;**

**P** through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **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. 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.

**BENEDICTION**

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠  
Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

**C** Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: 531**

# Faith

**A voice of one  
crying out  
in the desert:  
Prepare the way  
of the Lord.**

Luke 3:4



