

ADVENT

A HOLY CHAPERONE TO CHRIST:  
GOD'S LAW AS CURB, MIRROR, AND GUIDE

December 6th, 2023



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MARTIN LUTHER  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
St. Louis, MO  
Pastor Seth Georgson  
314-914-6457

*The most important Christmas preparation is the preparation of our hearts which happens by hearing and meditating on the Word of God. God's law is holy and perfect. It can't save us, but it does serve an important role in God's plan of salvation. As a pedagogue or chaperone, it guards, teaches, prepares, and leads us to Christ. It does this in its three uses as curb, mirror, and guide.*

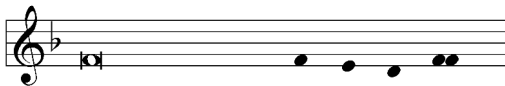
## EVENING PRAYER

**Hymn ----- The Advent of Our King**

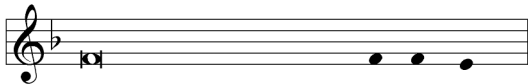
CW 1

1. The advent of our King Our prayers must now employ,  
And we must hymns of welcome sing In strains of holy joy.
2. The everlasting Son Incarnate deigns to be,  
Himself a servant's form puts on To set his servants free.
3. O Zion's Daughter, rise To meet your lowly King,  
Nor let a faithless heart despise The peace he comes to bring.
4. As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come again  
And his true members all unite With him in heav'n to reign.
5. Before the dawning Day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,  
The sinful self be put away, The new self now put on.
6. All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,  
With Father, Spirit, ever one Through all eternity.

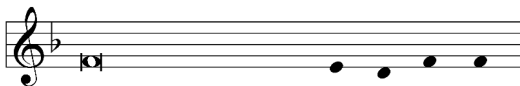
*Stand.*



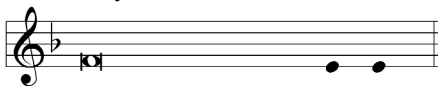
**M:** Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



**C:** the light no darkness can o-ver-come.



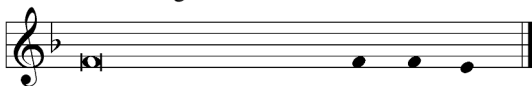
M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning,



C: and the day is almost o - ver.



M: Be our light and scat-ter the dark-ness,



C: and hear our evening hymn of praise.



1 O gra - cious Light, Lord Je - sus Christ, In you the  
2 Now sun - set comes, but light shines forth; The lamps are  
3 Wor - thy are you of end - less praise, O Son of



Fa - ther's glo - ry shone. Im - mor - tal, ho - ly,  
lit to pierce the night. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and  
God, life - giv - ing Lord; Where-fore you are through



blest is he, And blest are you, his on - ly Son.  
Spir - it: God Who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.  
all the earth And in the high - est heav'n a - dored.

## EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

M: Dear people of God, in the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy  
to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels,  
to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose  
from the time of our rebellion against him  
until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy child, Jesus,  
and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with  
hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world,  
for peace and justice on earth,  
for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died,  
for the people in our country and in this place,  
and especially for the brothers and sisters in our synod and in our own  
congregation.

And because he loves them, let us remember in his name  
the poor and helpless,  
the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed,  
the sick and those who mourn,  
the lonely and unloved, and  
the aged and little children  
as well as those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us praise God for the faith of Mary, mother of our Lord,  
and that whole multitude which no one can number,  
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,  
and with whom, in Jesus, we are one forevermore.

To sum up these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

C: Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your  
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on  
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our  
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as  
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Lead us  
not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from  
e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er, and the glo - ry are  
yours now and for - ev - er. A - men.

M: The almighty God bless us with his grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and may the King of angels bring us all to the fellowship of the citizens above.

C: Amen.

*Be seated.*

**Lesson ----- Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 5–8, 23, 24, 39–40**

So now, Israel, listen to the statutes and the ordinances that I am teaching you, and carry them out so that you may live and so that you may enter the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving to you and take possession of it. Do not add to the word that I am commanding you, and do not subtract from it, so that you keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you. ...

Note well now, I have taught you statutes and ordinances, as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may carry them out also in the land that you are entering to take as a possession. Keep them and put them into practice, because in this way your wisdom and your understanding will be recognized by all the people who hear about all these statutes; and they will say, “This great nation is certainly a wise and understanding people,” because what other great nation is there

that has a god as close to it as the LORD our God is to us whenever we call on him? What other great nation is there that has statutes and ordinances as righteous as this entire law that I am presenting to you today? ....

Be on guard so that you do not forget the covenant that the LORD your God made with you and so that you do not make an idol for yourselves in the form of anything that the LORD your God prohibited. For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. ...

Therefore know this today and again take it to heart that the LORD is God in the heavens above and on the earth below. There is no other. Keep his statutes and his commandments that I am commanding you today, so that it may go well for you and for your children after you, and so that you may live long on the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time.

M: The Lord will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

**Hymn ----- The Ten Commandments Are the Law**

CW 285:1–4

1. The Ten Commandments are the law Which Israel heard in holy awe.  
In smoke and fire from Sinai The voice of God shook the sky.  
Have mercy, Lord!

2. "I am your Lord and God alone! No other god but me enthroned!  
Put your whole confidence in me; Give me your heart totally."  
Have mercy, Lord!
3. "In what you speak bring me no shame; Do not misuse my holy name,  
But call on me in troubled days; Give me your thanks, prayers, and  
praise." Have mercy, Lord!
4. "Respect the Sabbath of the Lord! Do not despise my holy Word,  
But hold it sacred, precious, true, And hear that truth preached to you."  
Have mercy, Lord!

**Sermon ----- Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 5–8, 23, 24, 39–40**

*A Holy Chaperone to Christ: God's Law as Curb*

*Stand.*

*Confession of Faith – Dialogue from the Catechism*

M: God has given his holy law as a curb to restrain our sinful nature, as a mirror to show us our sin and need for a Savior, and as a guide to instruct the believer in joyful, godly living. Let us recite from the Ten Commandments and their meanings.

M: The First Commandment:

C: **You shall have no other gods.**

M: What does this mean?

C: **We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.**

M: The Second Commandment:

C: **You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

C: We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

**C: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

C: We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

*Magnificat*

7





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.

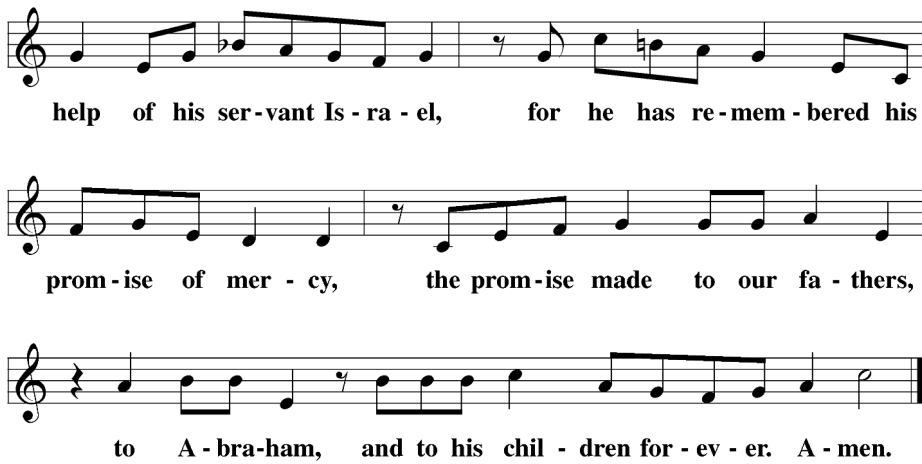


He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich



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.

*Be seated.*

*Offering*

*Stand.*

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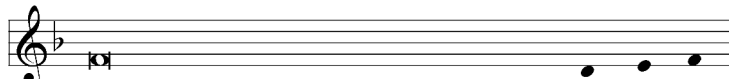
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of the Gospel here and around the world.



*Lord, Have Mercy*

*Kyrie*



**M:** In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.

**M:** For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:



**C: Christ, have mer - cy.**

M: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



**C: Lord, have mer - cy.**

M: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

M: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



**C: Lord, hear our prayer.**

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



**C: Thanks be to God.**

M: In thanksgiving for your many and varied gifts to us, we now commend ourselves to your care. Be our shield and strength, O Lord.



*Be seated.*

**Hymn ----- Hosanna to the Coming Lord**

CW 21

1. Hosanna to the coming Lord!  
Hosanna to the incarnate Word!  
To Christ, Creator, Savior, King  
Let earth, let heav'n hosanna sing.
2. O Savior, with protecting care  
Abide in this your house of prayer,  
Where we your parting promise claim,  
Assembled in your sacred name.
3. O Advent King, our sins forgive;  
Come in our lives and hearts to live,  
And let our humble souls become  
A temple worthy of your name.
4. Then in the last and dreadful day,  
When earth and heav'n shall melt away,  
Your flock, redeemed from sinful stain,  
Shall swell the sound of praise again.

*Stand.*

### *Prayer*

M: O God, you make us glad with the expectation of the coming of your one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that we, who with joy receive him as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he will come to be our judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

### *Song of Simeon*

### *Nunc Dimittis*



C: In peace, Lord, you let your ser - vant now de - part



ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen



your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry



peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

*Blessing*



**M:** The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



**C:** A - men.

*Be seated.*

**Closing Hymn ----- Come, O Long-Expected Jesus**

CW 6

1. Come, O long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set your people free;  
From our sins and fears release us  
By your death on Calvary.  
Israel's Strength and Consolation,  
Hope to all the earth impart,  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2. Born your people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a king,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now your gracious kingdom bring.  
By your own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By your all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to your glorious throne.

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