

ADVENT

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

December 13th, 2023



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*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.*

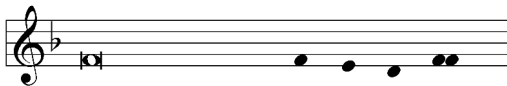
## EVENING PRAYER

**Hymn ----- Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring**

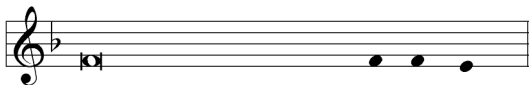
CW 26

1. Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;  
Jesus came to win redemption, Lowly came on earth to die;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.
2. Jesus comes again in mercy When our hearts are worn with care;  
Jesus comes again in answer To an earnest, heartfelt prayer,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.
3. Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;  
Jesus comes with words of gladness, Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
4. Jesus comes on clouds triumphant When the heav'ns shall pass away.  
Jesus comes again in glory; Let us, then, our homage pay,  
Alleluia! ever singing Till the dawn of endless day.

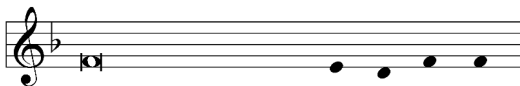
*Stand.*



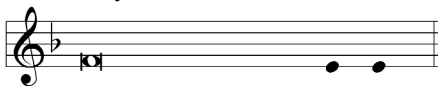
**M:** Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



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



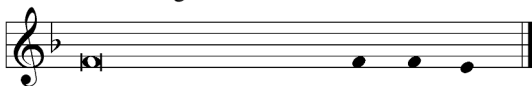
M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning,



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 ----- Galatians 3:19-25**

Then what about the law? It was added for the purpose of revealing transgressions, until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. It was transmitted through angels by the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not needed for one party, but God is one.

Then is the law against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given that could give life, certainly righteousness would

have been derived from the law. But Scripture imprisoned all things under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ would be given to those who believe. But before this faith came, we were held in custody under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith was revealed. So the law was our chaperone until Christ, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a chaperone.

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, 5-8

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!
5. "Give to your parents honor due, Be dutiful and loving, too,  
And help them when their pow'rs are few; So shall it go well with you."  
Have mercy, Lord!
6. "You shall not murder, hurt, nor hate; Your anger dare not dominate.  
Be kind and patient; help, defend, And treat your foe as your friend."  
Have mercy, Lord!
7. "Be faithful to your marriage vow; No lust or impure thoughts allow,  
But keep your body free from sin With self-control, discipline."  
Have mercy, Lord!

8. “You shall not steal or take away What others worked for night and day,  
But open wide a gen’rous hand And help the poor in the land.”  
Have mercy, Lord!

**Sermon ----- Galatians 3:19–25**

*A Holy Chaperone to Christ: God’s Law as Mirror*

*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 Fourth Commandment:

C: **Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.**

M: What does this mean?

C: **We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents or others in authority, but honor, serve, and obey them, and give them love and respect.**

M: The Fifth Commandment:

C: **You shall not murder.**

M: What does this mean?

C: **We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.**

M: The Sixth Commandment:

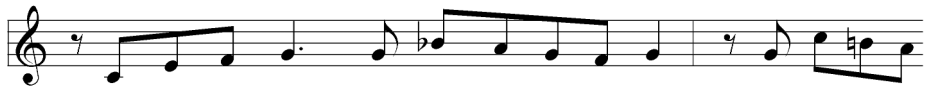
C: You shall not commit adultery.

M: What does this mean?

C: We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

*Song of Mary*

*Magnificat*



C: My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-



joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor



on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions



will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great



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,



*Be seated.*

*Offering*

*Stand.*

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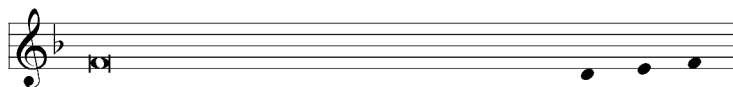


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*Lord, Have Mercy*

*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.



**C: A - men.**

*Be seated.*

Hymn ----- Come, O Precious Ransom, Come  
CW 8

1. Come, O precious Ransom, come,  
Only Hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world!  
Open are to you all portals.  
Come, your beauty let us view;  
Anxiously we wait for you.
2. Enter now my waiting heart,  
Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,  
Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine  
When you are my guest divine!
3. My hosannas and my palms  
Graciously receive, I pray you.  
Evermore, as best I can,  
Savior, I will homage pay you,  
And in faith I will embrace,  
Lord, your merit through your grace.
4. Hail, hosanna, David's Son!  
Help, Lord; hear our supplication!  
Let your kingdom, scepter, crown  
Bring us blessing and salvation  
That forever we may sing  
Hail, hosanna! to our King.

*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



### *Blessing*



### *Be seated.*

## **Closing Hymn ----- Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates**

CW 4

1. Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation he will bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
2. The King is born in poverty, His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe he brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.

3. How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes  
    To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is he Who comes to set his people free.  
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.
4. Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
    Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!
5. Redeemer, come! I open wide My heart to you; here, Lord, abide!  
Oh, enter with your saving grace; Show me your kind and friendly face.  
Your Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame We offer to your name.

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