

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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December 9, 2020



Advent Midweek

**O Lord, How Shall I Meet You**

**LSB 334**

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,  
How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You,  
My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
Your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please You best.
- 2 Your Zion strews before You  
Green boughs and fairest palms;  
And I too will adore You  
With joyous songs and psalms.  
My heart shall bloom forever  
For You with praises new  
And from Your name shall never  
Withhold the honor due.
- 3 I lay in fetters, groaning;  
You came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning;  
You came to honor me.  
A glorious crown You give me,  
A treasure safe on high  
That will not fail or leave me  
As earthly riches fly.
- 4 Love caused Your incarnation;  
Love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling,  
That led You to embrace

In love, all love excelling,  
Our lost and fallen race.

- 5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
Cannot His love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing  
Eternal life in heav'n.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations,  
A terror to His foes,  
A light of consolations  
And blessèd hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing.  
O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Your beams so cheering,  
And guide us safely home.

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*Stand*

## Opening Versicles (Advent)

*LSB 260*

- L** This is the day which the Lord has made;  
**C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**  
**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- L** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.  
**C** **Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**  
**L** Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**C** **Make His paths straight.**  
**L** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down  
righteousness.  
**C** **Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**
- L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- C** **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.

## Old Testament Cantic

LSB 261

*During this cantic, the Congregation is invited to sing the refrain and a cantor or choir sings the verses.*

**☐ The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation.  
And you will say in that day:  
“Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name,  
make known His deeds among the peoples,  
proclaim that His name is exalted.”

**The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.  
Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in your  
midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

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.

**The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.**

*Sit*

## Psalm 71

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, do I take | refuge; \*  
let me never be | put to shame!

<sup>2</sup>In your righteousness deliver me and | rescue me; \*  
incline your ear to me, and | save me!

<sup>3</sup>Be to me a rock of refuge,  
to which I may contin- | ually come; \*  
you have given the command to save me,

for you are my rock and my | fortress.

<sup>4</sup>Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the | wicked,\*  
from the grasp of the unjust and | cruel man.

<sup>5</sup>For you, O Lord, | are my hope,\*  
my trust, O LORD, | from my youth.

<sup>6</sup>Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;  
you are he who took me from my | mother's womb.\*  
My praise is continually | of you.

<sup>7</sup>I have been as a portent to | many,\*  
but you are my strong | refuge.

<sup>8</sup>My mouth is filled | with your praise,\*  
and with your glory | all the day.

<sup>9</sup>Do not cast me off in the time of | old age;\*  
forsake me not when my | strength is spent.

<sup>10</sup>For my enemies speak con- | cerning me,\*  
those who watch for my life consult together

<sup>11</sup>and say, "God has for- | saken him;  
pursue and | seize him,\*  
for there is none to de- | liver him."

<sup>12</sup>O God, be not | far from me;\*  
O my God, make haste to | help me!

<sup>13</sup>May my accusers be put to shame | and consumed;\*  
with scorn and disgrace may they be covered  
who | seek my hurt.

<sup>14</sup>But I will hope con- | tinually\*  
and will praise you yet | more and more.

<sup>15</sup>My mouth will tell of your righteous acts,  
of your deeds of salvation | all the day,\*  
for their number is past my | knowledge.

<sup>16</sup>With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;\*  
I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.

<sup>17</sup>O God, from my youth you have | taught me,\*  
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.

<sup>18</sup>So even to old age and gray hairs,  
O God, do not for- | sake me,\*  
until I proclaim your might to another generation,  
your power to all | those to come.

<sup>19</sup>Your righteousness, O God,  
reaches the high | heavens.\*  
You who have done great things,  
O God, who is | like you?

<sup>20</sup>You who have made me see many troubles and calamities  
will revive | me again;\*  
from the depths of the earth  
you will bring me | up again.

<sup>21</sup>You will increase my | greatness\*  
and comfort | me again.

<sup>22</sup>I will also praise you with the harp  
for your faithfulness, | O my God;\*  
I will sing praises to you with the lyre,  
O Holy One of | Israel.

<sup>23</sup>My lips will shout for joy,  
when I sing prais- | es to you;\*  
my soul also, which you | have redeemed.

<sup>24</sup>And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all | the day  
long,\*  
for they have been put to shame and disappointed  
who sought to | do me hurt.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading

*Romans 6:1-11*

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For one who has died has been set free from sin. <sup>8</sup>Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading

*Matthew 28:16-20*

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Responsory (Advent)

LSB 263

**L** 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.**

**L** He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

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

**L** 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.**

*Stand*

## Holy Baptism - First

*What is Baptism?*

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.

*Which is that word of God?*

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

## Holy Baptism - Second

*What benefits does Baptism give?*

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

*Which are these words and promises of God?*

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

### **Holy Baptism - Third**

*How can water do such great things?*

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:5–8)

### **Holy Baptism - Fourth**

*What does such baptizing with water indicate?*

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

*Where is this written?*

St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)

*Sit*

### **Sermon**

#### **All Christians Who Have Been Baptized**

**LSB 596**

- 1 All Christians who have been baptized,  
Who know the God of heaven,  
And in whose daily life is prized  
The name of Christ once given:  
Consider now what God has done,  
The gifts He gives to ev’ryone  
Baptized into Christ Jesus!

- 2 You were before your day of birth,  
Indeed, from your conception,  
Condemned and lost with all the earth,  
None good, without exception.  
For like your parents' flesh and blood,  
Turned inward from the highest good,  
You constantly denied Him.
- 3 But all of that was washed away—  
Immersed and drowned forever.  
The water of your Baptism day  
Restored again whatever  
Old Adam and his sin destroyed  
And all our sinful selves employed  
According to our nature.
- 4 In Baptism we now put on Christ—  
Our shame is fully covered  
With all that He once sacrificed  
And freely for us suffered.  
For here the flood of His own blood  
Now makes us holy, right, and good  
Before our heav'nly Father.
- 5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift  
And give God thanks forever!  
It gives the power to uplift  
In all that you endeavor.  
When nothing else revives your soul,  
Your Baptism stands and makes you whole  
And then in death completes you.
- 6 So use it well! You are made new—  
In Christ a new creation!  
As faithful Christians, live and do  
Within your own vocation,  
Until that day when you possess  
His glorious robe of righteousness  
Bestowed on you forever!

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**Offering** (*please place in plate prior to the service, or on your way out after the service*)

Prayer

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*]. . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Collect of the Day

- L** Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## Collect for the Word

LSB 265

- L** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Evening Prayer

LSB 266

- C** 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.

## Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.

## Blessing

LSB 267

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** Amen.

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain
  
- ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!
  
- 2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain
  
- 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain
  
- 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain
  
- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. Refrain
  
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
  
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

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## Acknowledgments

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