
ADVENT VESPERS

(EVENING PRAYER)

Lutheran Book of Worship

L - Leader

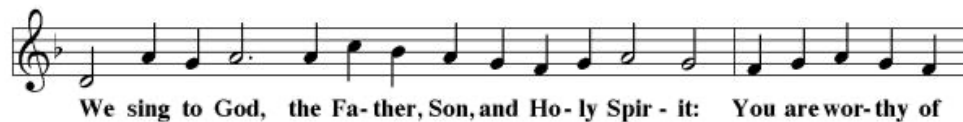
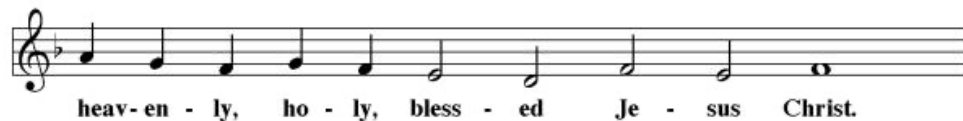
R - Response

✙ - make the sign of the cross

*PROCESSION



*HYMN OF LIGHT



*THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

The musical score is written on eight staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into two main sections by a double bar line. The first section contains the first four staves, and the second section contains the last four staves. The lyrics are as follows:

☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ☑ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

☐ Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led your people

Israel by a pil - lar of cloud by day and a pil - lar of fire by night:

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ; may his Word be a lamp

to our feet and a light to our path; for you are mer - ci - ful,

and you love your whole cre - a - tion, and we, your crea - tures, glo - ri - fy you,

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. ☑ A - men

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

ADVENT I

L: Let us pray. Lord our God, grant that we may be ready to receive Christ when he comes in glory and to share in the banquet of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

R: Amen.

ADVENT II

L: Let us pray. All-powerful God, we await the healing power of Christ your Son. Let us not be discouraged by our weakness as we prepare for his coming. Keep us steadfast in your love. We ask this though our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R: Amen.

ADVENT III

L: Let us pray. Father, may the coming celebration of the birth of your Son bring us your saving help and prepare us for eternal life. Grant this though our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R: Amen.

ADVENT IV

L: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

R: Amen.

Please be seated.



LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE - HOPE

L: Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning. As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace. O house of Jacob, come,

R: Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Hymn #257 verse 1

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE - PEACE

L: Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people. As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations. O people of hope, come,

R: Let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Hymn #257 verse 4

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE - JOY

L: Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of might and majesty, for you promise to make the desert rejoice and blossom, to watch over the strangers, and to set the prisoners free. As we light these candles, satisfy our hunger with your good gifts, open our eyes to the great things you have done for us, and fill us with patience until the coming of the Lord Jesus. O ransomed people of the Lord, come,

R: Let us travel on God's holy way and enter into Zion with singing. Amen.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Hymn #257 verse 6

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE - LOVE

L: Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved. O house of David, come,

R: Let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Hymn #257 verse 7

EVENING PSALM

8 Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;
 the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

9 O Lord, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I cry to you.

10 Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense;
 the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

11 Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

12 Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing; let me not be oc - cu -
 pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers. 13 But my eyes are
 turned to you, Lord God; in you I take ref - uge. Strip me not of my life.

Continued



PSALM PRAYER

L: Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before you, O Lord, and let your lovingkindness descend upon us, that with purified minds we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host, and may glorify you forever and ever.

R: Amen.

PSALM 4

Answer me when I call, O God, defender | of my cause;*

you set me free when I am hard-pressed; have mercy on me and | hear my prayer.

“You mortals, how long will you dishon- | or my glory;*

how long will you worship dumb idols and run af- | ter false gods?”

Know that the Lord does wonders | for the faithful;*

when I call upon the Lord, | he will hear me.

Tremble, then, and | do not sin;*

speak to your heart in silence up- | on your bed.

Offer the appointed | sacrifices,*

and put your trust | in the Lord.

Many are saying, “Oh, that we might see | better times!”*

Lift up the light of your countenance upon | us, O Lord.

You have put gladness | in my heart,*

more than when grain and wine and | oil increase.

I lie down in peace; at once I | fall asleep;*

for only you, Lord, make me | dwell in safety.

PSALM PRAYER

L: Lord, hear our prayers and come to us, bringing light into the darkness of our hearts;
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

R: Amen

Please stand as you are able

*HYMN

ADVENT I: "The King Shall Come"

Hymn #260

ADVENT II: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

Hymn #311

ADVENT III: "Holy God, Holy and Glorious"

Hymn #637

ADVENT IV: "Lord Our God, With Praise We Come"

Hymn #730

Please be seated.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

ADVENT I

Isaiah 25:6-10a

ADVENT II

Isaiah 40:25-31

ADVENT III

Jeremiah 23:5-8

ADVENT IV

Song of Songs 2:8-14

REFLECTION

RESPONSE

L: In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.

R: But now in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.

Please stand.



***GOSPEL CANTICLE**



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.

Continued

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 he
 made to our fa-thers, to A-bra-ham and his chil-dren for-ev-er.
 Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;
 as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men

***PRAYERS**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy.

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For name(s), for our *pastor(s)* in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

L: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

RESPONSE

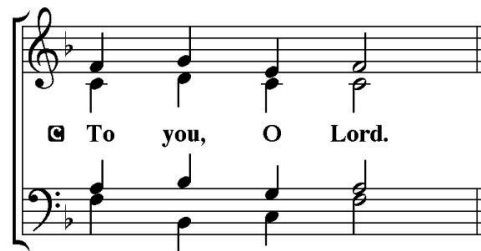
L: For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks to the Lord



L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for meditation

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.



L: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: 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; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.



***LORD'S PRAYER**

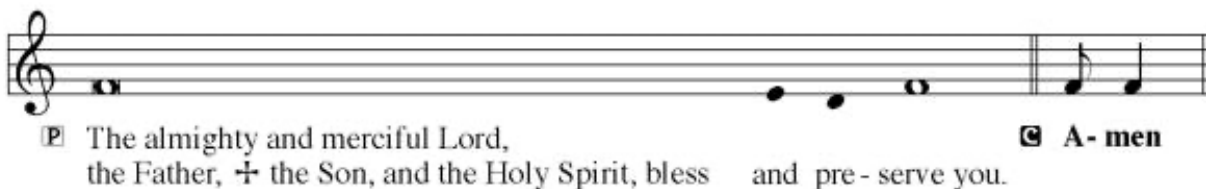
L: Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

**R: 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.**

***BENIDCAMUS**



***BENEDICTION**



***HYMN**

ADVENT I: *"Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending"*

Hymn #435

ADVENT II: *"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"*

Hymn #256

ADVENT III: *"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

Hymn #254

ADVENT IV: *"Fling Wide the Door"*

Hymn #259

We invite you to remain and engage in a time of silent prayer.

ADVENT VESPERS SCHEDULE

November 30, 2022 - St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 7, 2022 - Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 14, 2022 - St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 21, 2022 - Shells Evangelical Lutheran Church

SHELLS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

287 Shells Church Road

Grantville, PA 17028

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

158 South Hoernerstown Road

Hummelstown, PA 17036