

Come, Lord Jesus!

St. Lucas Lutheran Church, Kewaskum Wisconsin
Advent Vespers December 14, 2022

Be Born In Us Today -- Bringing Power

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
and the day is almost over.

Be our light and scatter the darkness,
and hear our evening prayer and praise.

The King Shall Come

CW 495



1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and light tri -
2 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic -
3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and earth's dark



um - phant breaks, when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and
to - rious, rose and left the lone - some place of death de -
night is past; that morn - ing can - not rise too soon, that



life to joy a - wakes— not as of old a lit - tle
spite the rage of foes shall dawn that glo - rious, wel - come
day that e'er shall last. Then let the end - less bliss be -



child to bear and fight and die, but crowned with
morn for all who know his grace— the day when
gin, as heav'n with prais - es rings. Hail, Christ the



glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
Christ in splen - dor comes and we shall see his face.
Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, abr., alt.
Tune: Irish
Text and tune: Public domain

Reading

Galatians 4:3–7

³So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces of the world. ⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are

his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

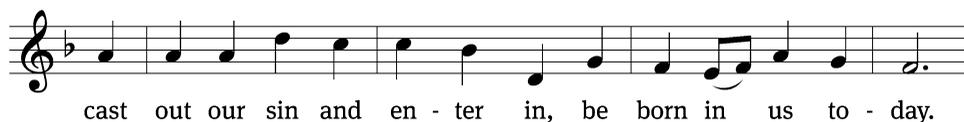
Lighting of the Advent Candles

We light the third candle on the Advent wreath as we draw near to the celebration of Jesus’ birth. The Christ Child came in power, but his power was hidden in weakness. The little child who was wrapped in swaddling cloths and laid in a manger in Bethlehem, is “the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:24).

Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. You came in power to save us!

The power of God to save is revealed in Christ Jesus—in his humble manger bed, in his weakness and suffering on the cross and in the empty tomb on the day of his resurrection! “The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Lord Jesus, you are glorious in power and majesty!



Stand

Gospel

Luke 3:15–17

¹⁵The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

Song

Prepare the Royal Highway St. Lucas Lutheran Elementary School Sixer Singers

Meditation

Exodus 15:1–18

¹Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

“I will sing to the LORD,
for he is highly exalted.

Both horse and driver
he has hurled into the sea.

²“The LORD is my strength and my defense;
he has become my salvation.

He is my God, and I will praise him,
my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

³The LORD is a warrior;
the LORD is his name.

⁴Pharaoh’s chariots and his army
he has hurled into the sea.

The best of Pharaoh’s officers
are drowned in the Red Sea.

⁵The deep waters have covered them;
they sank to the depths like a stone.

⁶Your right hand, LORD,
was majestic in power.

Your right hand, LORD,
shattered the enemy.

⁷“In the greatness of your majesty
you threw down those who opposed you.
You unleashed your burning anger;
it consumed them like stubble.

⁸By the blast of your nostrils
the waters piled up.
The surging waters stood up like a wall;
the deep waters congealed in the heart
of the sea.

⁹The enemy boasted,
‘I will pursue, I will overtake them.
I will divide the spoils;
I will gorge myself on them.
I will draw my sword
and my hand will destroy them.’

¹⁰But you blew with your breath,
and the sea covered them.
They sank like lead
in the mighty waters.

¹¹Who among the gods
is like you, LORD?

Who is like you—
 majestic in holiness,
 awesome in glory,
 working wonders?
¹²You stretch out your right hand,
 and the earth swallows your enemies.
¹³In your unfailing love you will lead
 the people you have redeemed.
 In your strength you will guide them
 to your holy dwelling.
¹⁴The nations will hear and tremble;
 anguish will grip the people of Philistia.
¹⁵The chiefs of Edom will be terrified,
 the leaders of Moab will be seized with
 trembling,

the people of Canaan will melt away;
¹⁶terror and dread will fall on them.
 By the power of your arm
 they will be as still as a stone—
 until your people pass by, LORD,
 until the people you bought pass by.
¹⁷You will bring them in and plant them
 on the mountain of your inheritance—
 the place, LORD, you made for your dwelling,
 the sanctuary, Lord, your hands
 established.
¹⁸“The LORD reigns
 for ever and ever.”

Hymn

CW 315



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly
 2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 4 Sav - ior, hear my wel - come cry— loud ho - san - nas



kept his word and at last to us did send
 heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y a year
 Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—
 lift - ed high! King of glo - ry, en - ter in;



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 cleanse my soul of ev - 'ry sin.

Stanzas 5 & 6 are printed on the next page

5 Crush for me the serpent's head
that, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to you in faith,
safely kept through life and death,

6 And, when you shall come again
as a glorious king to reign,
I with joy may see your face,
freely ransomed by your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; (sts. 1–3, 5–6): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 2021
Tune: Geistliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter
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Stand

Lord, Have Mercy

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

Prayer

Almighty God, at the right time you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, to be our Savior. Coming in power to save, our Lord was born in Bethlehem and laid in a humble manger. His mighty power was hidden in the weakness and suffering of his death on the cross and revealed in his triumphant resurrection. He has rescued us from sin, death and the devil. In the power of the Holy Spirit, lead us to follow Jesus and walk in his ways. Help us to be bold witnesses to his love and saving power so that others will come to know and worship him as Lord. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Prayer for Peace

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

CW 319



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy when our hearts are
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, bring - ing news of
4 Je - sus comes on clouds tri - um - phant when the heav'ns shall



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
pass a - way. Je - sus comes a - gain in glo - ry;



low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
to an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer, Al - le - lu - ia!
lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
let us, then, our hom - age pay, Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia! comes to save us from de - spair.
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
ev - er sing - ing till the dawn of end - less day.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, abr., alt.
Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1698
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Evening (Vespers) from Christian Worship

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