

# Songs of Advent



Mid-Week Advent Series on Psalms

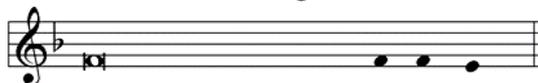
SHINING MOUNTAINS LUTHERAN CHURCH

BOZEMAN MT

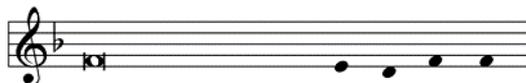
# EVENING PRAYER



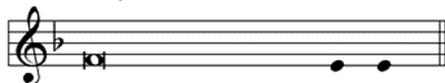
M: Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



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



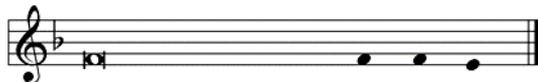
M: Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve-ning,



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.

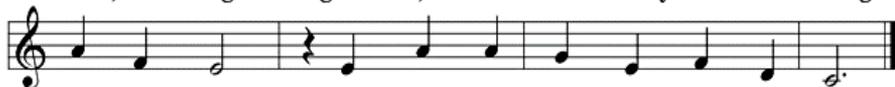
*The advent candle is lit as the hymn is sung.*



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.

M: Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## LET MY PRAYER RISE BEFORE YOU

*Psalm 141*

C: Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing  
up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I  
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I  
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,  
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

M: Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

## LESSON

**Luke 1:67-79**

<sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: <sup>68</sup> "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. <sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David <sup>70</sup> (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), <sup>71</sup> salvation from our

enemies and from the hand of all who hate us — <sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath he swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup> to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve him without fear <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup> And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, <sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven <sup>79</sup> to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.”

M: The Lord will come again in glory.

C: **The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

HYMN #707

*Peace Came to Earth*



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night  
 2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held  
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And  
 The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The  
 In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In  
 How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but  
 wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but  
 bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but  
 else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but



gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
 sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
 see: Im - man - u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
 pray: Im - man - u - el! Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

For the director of music. Of the Sons of Korah. A psalm.

- 1 You showed favor to your land, O LORD;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the iniquity of your people  
and covered all their sins. *Selah*
- 3 You set aside all your wrath  
and turned from your fierce anger.
- 4 Restore us again, O God our Savior,  
and put away your displeasure toward us.
- 5 Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
- 6 Will you not revive us again,  
that your people may rejoice in you?
- 7 Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.
- 8 I will listen to what God the LORD will say;  
he promises peace to his people, his saints —  
but let them not return to folly.
- 9 Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Love and faithfulness meet together;  
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
- 11 Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,  
and righteousness looks down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed give what is good,  
and our land will yield its harvest.
- 13 Righteousness goes before him  
and prepares the way for his steps.

# 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,  
 to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

## OFFERING

*Our offerings are an expression of thankfulness for what our Savior has done for us, and a way of supporting the spread of the gospel through the Church's work.*

*You can place your offering in the plate in the entryway,  
 or through our [secure online giving site](#).*



# 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.

## THE 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.

## PRAYER FOR PEACE

M: 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.

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.

CLOSING HYMN #587

*Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow*



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow The wood - land,  
 2 The rule of day is o - ver And shin - ing  
 3 Lord Je - sus, since you love me, Oh, spread your  
 4 My loved ones, rest se - cure - ly, For God this



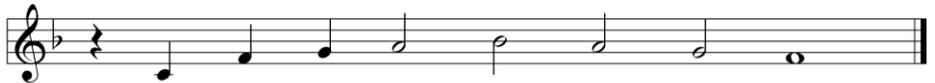
field, and mead - ow; The world in slum - ber  
 jew - els cov - er The heav - en's bound - less  
 wings a - bove me And shield me from a -  
 night will sure - ly From per - il guard your



lies. But you, my heart, a - wak - en,  
 blue. Thus I shall shine in heav - en,  
 harm. Though Sa - tan would as - sail me,  
 heads. Sweet slum - bers may he send you



With prayer and song be tak - en;  
 Where crowns of gold are giv - en  
 Your mer - cy will not fail me;  
 And bid his hosts at - tend you



Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.  
 To all who faith - ful prove and true.  
 I rest in your pro - tect - ing arm.  
 And through the night watch o'er your beds.

# About tonight's worship

Our midweek evening services always feel quite a bit different than our Sunday morning services. There is unique history behind them.

## **Midweek services in Lent and Advent**

While some holidays – like Easter, Ascension and Pentecost – were celebrated annually from the very first years after Christ, most of the “seasons” of the Church Year gradually took shape over the first 200 years of the Church’s life. The seasons of Lent (40 days of preparation before Easter) and Advent (four weeks of preparation before Christmas) were being widely practiced by the early 300s and late 400s AD, respectively.

To focus believers on repentance and preparation during these seasons, Christians worldwide have long held midweek services during Lent. Similar services during Advent have been added in Christian churches in America over the last fifty years or so.

## **Evening Prayer**

The order of worship we use tonight, Evening Prayer, is a version of the historic order of worship called “Vespers.” It has its roots in “the daily office,” a set of nine short worship services that Christians took part in every day at Christian universities, monasteries, and in their own personal lives. They were brief devotional times of prayer, reading scripture and singing psalms and hymns.

Evening Prayer, or Vespers, was usually the second-to-last time of prayer each day. During Lent, we’ve used Compline, which is the final service of the night. We also at times use “Morning Prayer” for a Sunday service – a version of the early morning “Matins” service.

## **Unique elements**

We don’t use the altar or chancel space for these evening services. Historically, these services were often held in smaller side-chapels, not using a church’s “high altar” since communion isn’t celebrated. The congregation remains seated, and the worship is a bit slower – intended to be quiet and reflective. God bless your worship!