

Mid-Week Advent Service

December 13, 2023

Resounding Psalms for Advent: Revived

As We Gather - We do not often emphasize the psalms during the Advent season, instead being eager to read about the prophecies, anticipating Jesus' coming. Yet the psalms are God's Word during terrible times to people who lived before God's promises were fulfilled in our Savior's coming. This Advent, we focus on several psalms as we use them to prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth with open eyes and ears.

Today we focus on Psalm 85, which pleads with the Lord of hosts, "Revive us again!" That's asking for more than a little energy; it calls for rebirth and resurrection. And so the answer had to wait until Jesus came. We have been revived by our inclusion in the Body of Christ. Let the rejoicing resound!

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Opening Sentences

P The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P All those who await His appearance pray:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P The whole creation pleads:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

1 O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens
 2 As twilight hovers near at sunset,
 3 In all life's brilliant timeless moments,
 With radiance brighter than the sun,
 And lamps are lit, and children nod,
 Let faithful voices sing Your praise,
 Pure gleam of God's unending glory,
 In evening hymns we lift our voices
 O Son of God, our Life-giver,
 O Jesus, blest Anointed One;
 To Father, Spirit, Son: one God.
 Whose glory lights endless days.

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1944

Tune: Clement C. Scholefield, 1839–1904

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Tune: Public domain

Thanksgiving for Light

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar 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 merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

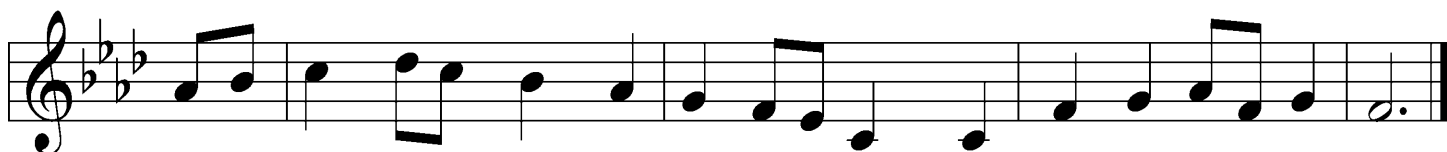
PSALMODY

- P** This Advent we are using each week's resounding psalm to enliven our faith and worship. The hymn, "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" frames Psalm 85, and we respond to the psalm with an antiphon on that tune.

Hymn: **The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns** *LSB 348 sts. 1-3*



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phunt breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925, alt.
Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth
Text and tune: Public domain

Psalm 85

- C** Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

- P** LORD, You were favorable to Your land;
You restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of Your people;
You covered all their sin.
You withdrew all Your wrath;
You turned from Your hot anger.

- C** Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

P Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away Your indignation toward us!
Will You be angry with us forever?
Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?
Will You not revive us again,
that Your people may rejoice in You?
Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us Your salvation.

C **Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.**

P Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.
Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

C **Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.**

P Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.
Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before Him
and make His footsteps a way.

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.**

Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

Hymn: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns LSB 348 sts. 4–5



4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau-ty brings.



The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.
Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth
Text and tune: Public domain

READINGS

Reading

Nehemiah 4

¹ Now when Sanballat heard that we were building the wall, he was angry and greatly enraged, and he jeered at the Jews. ² And he said in the presence of his brothers and of the army of Samaria, "What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore it for themselves? Will they sacrifice? Will they finish up in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish, and burned ones at that?" ³ Tobiah the Ammonite was beside him, and he said, "Yes, what they are building—if a fox goes up on it he will break down their stone wall!" ⁴ Hear, O our God, for we are despised. Turn back their taunt on their own heads and give them up to be plundered in a land where they are captives. ⁵ Do not cover their guilt, and let not their sin be blotted out from your sight, for they have provoked you to anger in the presence of the builders.

⁶ So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to work.

⁷ But when Sanballat and Tobiah and the Arabs and the Ammonites and the Ashdodites heard that the repairing of the walls of Jerusalem was going forward and that the breaches were beginning to be closed, they were very angry. ⁸ And they all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and to cause confusion in it. ⁹ And we prayed to our God and set a guard as a protection against them day and night.

¹⁰ In Judah it was said, "The strength of those who bear the burdens is failing. There is too much rubble. By ourselves we will not be able to rebuild the wall." ¹¹ And our enemies said, "They will not know or see till we come among them and kill them and stop the

work.”¹²At that time the Jews who lived near them came from all directions and said to us ten times, “You must return to us.”¹³So in the lowest parts of the space behind the wall, in open places, I stationed the people by their clans, with their swords, their spears, and their bows.¹⁴And I looked and arose and said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes.”

¹⁵When our enemies heard that it was known to us and that God had frustrated their plan, we all returned to the wall, each to his work.¹⁶From that day on, half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail. And the leaders stood behind the whole house of Judah,¹⁷who were building on the wall. Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other.¹⁸And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built. The man who sounded the trumpet was beside me.¹⁹And I said to the nobles and to the officials and to the rest of the people, “The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another.²⁰In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. Our God will fight for us.”

²¹So we labored at the work, and half of them held the spears from the break of dawn until the stars came out.²²I also said to the people at that time, “Let every man and his servant pass the night within Jerusalem, that they may be a guard for us by night and may labor by day.”²³So neither I nor my brothers nor my servants nor the men of the guard who followed me, none of us took off our clothes; each kept his weapon at his right hand.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Reading

Mark 1:1–8

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for

the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

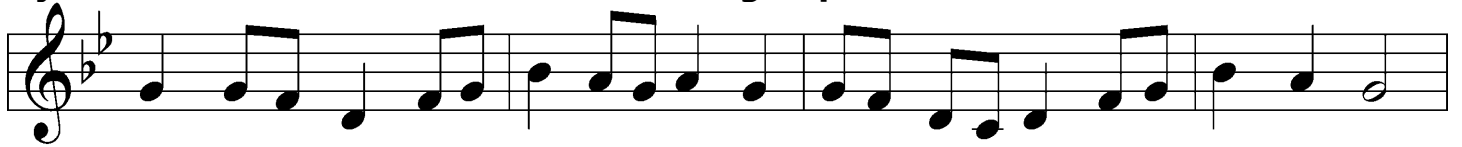
L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

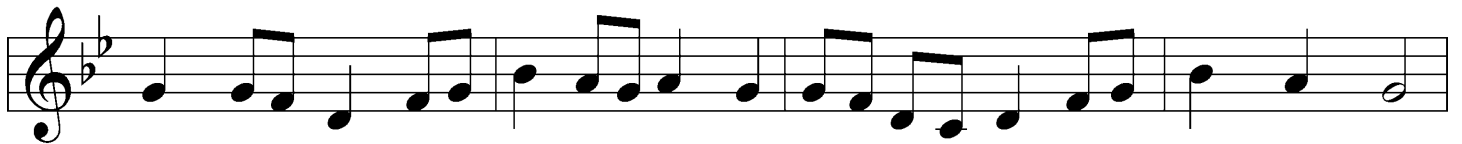
Hymn:

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - spect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na-tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon:

"Revive Us Again, O God"

Psalm 85

Hymn:

Tell Out, My Soul, the Greatness of the Lord

LSB 935



1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His name!
3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of His might!
4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of His Word!



Un - num - bered bless - ings, give my spir - it voice;
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
Pow'rs and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
Firm is His prom - ise, and His mer - cy sure.



Ten - der to me the prom - ise of His Word;
His mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord



In God my Sav - ior shall my heart re - jice.
His ho - ly name, the Lord, the Might - y One.
The hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
To chil - dren's chil - dren and for - ev - er - more!

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926
Tune: Walter Greatorex, 1877-1949
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PRAYER

Prayers

P Let us pray.

O Lord, who in the past revived Your people, showing them steadfast love, hear us as we pray for ourselves and all the Church: Strengthen our hope and increase faith and love among us and toward the world. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

C **Hear our prayer, O Lord. Revive us again and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

P Show us Your steadfast love now, O Lord. Hear us as we pray for all who have been forgotten by the world's commerce: Surround with faith-filled people all who are hungry and homeless, the many who are migrants and refugees, people dealing with sudden ills and long-term disabilities, and all who are in mourning. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

C **Hear our prayer, O Lord. Revive us again and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

P Give us, O Lord, what we need as we struggle in this dark world: Renew in us true faith and peace, faithfulness in worship, a spiritual vitality, and a confidence in Your promise of eternal life. Grant that many join us in fruitful worship. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

C **Hear our prayer, O Lord. Revive us again and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

P By the blessed coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gave us His own righteousness, grant these our prayers, for we pray in His name.

C **Amen.**

Collect for Today

P Revive us again, Lord our God,

C **and give us Christ's own righteousness so that we may serve You and love the people around us as living stones of Your temple;**

P through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect from Sunday

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,

C **that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds;**

P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Luther's Evening Prayer

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.**

Amen.

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.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

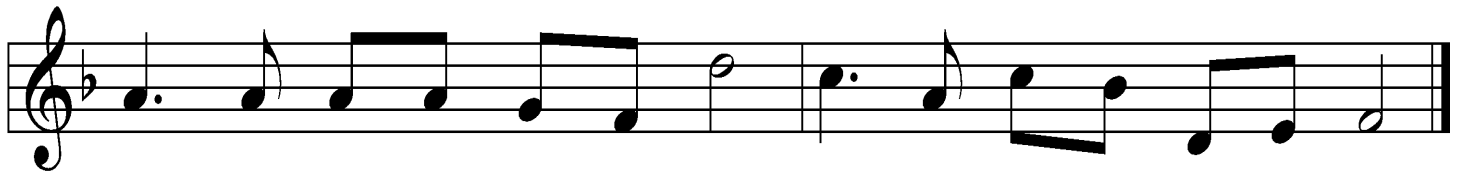
C **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:**Now the Light Has Gone Away**

LSB 887 sts. 1-5



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
 2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;
 3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;
 4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
 5 Thou, my best and kind - est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.
 Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.
 O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.
 All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!
 Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79, alt.

Tune: Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen, 1842, Kaiserswerth

Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude:

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 1.
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LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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