

## Mid-week Advent Service

December 20, 2023

### Resounding Psalms for Advent: Returned

**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 psalms as we use them to prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth with open eyes and ears.

Today we focus on Psalm 126, which speaks of the exiles that returned to Zion. And our joy shall be greater, for we will return to the new Eden, God's great garden!

### *SERVICE OF LIGHT*

#### Opening Sentences

**P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:

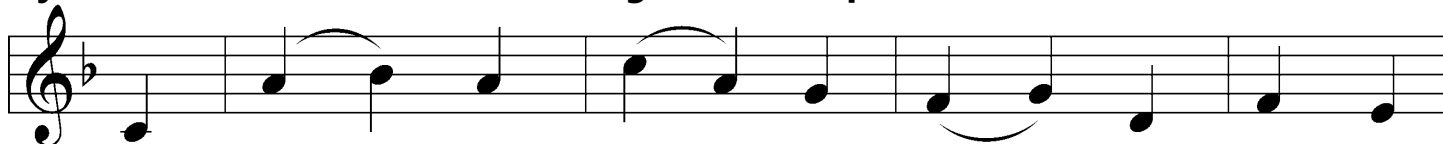
**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** All those who await His appearance pray:

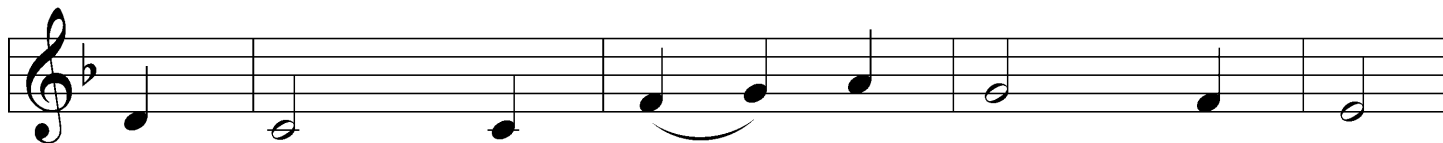
**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** The whole creation pleads:

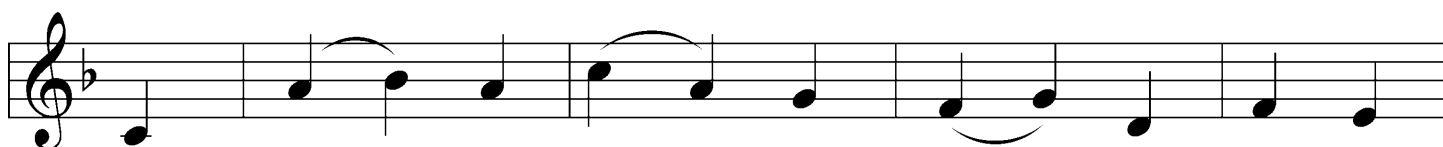
**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**



1 O Light whose splen - dor thrills and glad - dens  
 2 As twi - light hov - ers near at sun - set,  
 3 In all life's bril - liant time - less mo - ments,



With ra - diance bright - er than the sun,  
 And lamps are lit, and chil - dren nod,  
 Let faith - ful voic - es sing Your praise,



Pure gleam of God's un - end - ing glo - ry,  
 In eve - ning hymns we lift our voic - es  
 O Son of God, our Life - be - stow - er,



O Je - sus, blest A - noint - ed One;  
 To Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son: one God.  
 Whose glo - ry light - ens end - less 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 126, 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-phant 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 126

**C** **Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!**

**P** When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."  
The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

**C** **Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!**

**P** Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
 like streams in the Negeb!  
 Those who sow in tears  
 shall reap with shouts of joy!  
 He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,  
 shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

**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.**

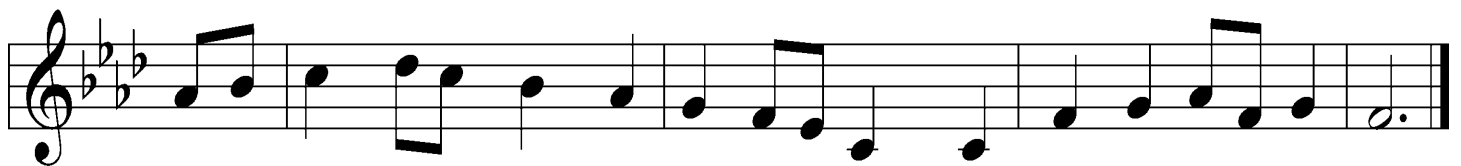
**Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!**

Text: ESV®  
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**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

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations. . . .

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Reading

*1 Peter 3:13–22*

<sup>13</sup>Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, <sup>15</sup>but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; <sup>16</sup>yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

<sup>18</sup>For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. <sup>21</sup>Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

**L** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



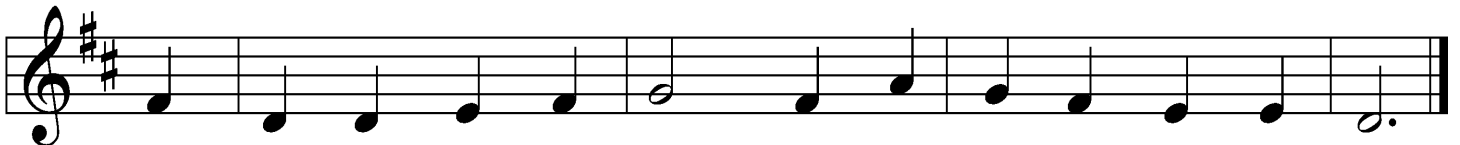
1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
 2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
 3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.  
 4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
 And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
 My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new  
 A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
 And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.  
 That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en 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.

*continued on next page*

6 He comes to judge the nations,  
 A terror to His foes,  
 A light of consolations  
 And blessed 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.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.  
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon:**

**"Returned"  
 Psalm 126**

**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 - joice.  
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 returned Your people to the Promised Land, hear us as we pray for ourselves and all the Church: Strengthen our hope in all Your gracious promises, 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. Return us to trust all Your promises, and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

**P** 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. Return us to trust all Your promises, and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

**P** In the midst of a dark world You send us. 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. Return us to trust all Your promises, 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** Return us to Your eternal Eden, Lord our God,  
**C** **and grant us such a sense of joy that the people around us may seek You and Your gracious blessings;**
- P** through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

### Collect from Sunday

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers  
**C** **and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation;**
- P** for You live and reign with the Father 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.**

### 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.

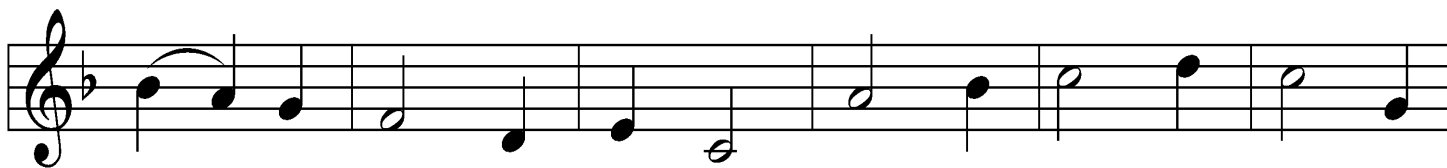
## Hymn:

### Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising

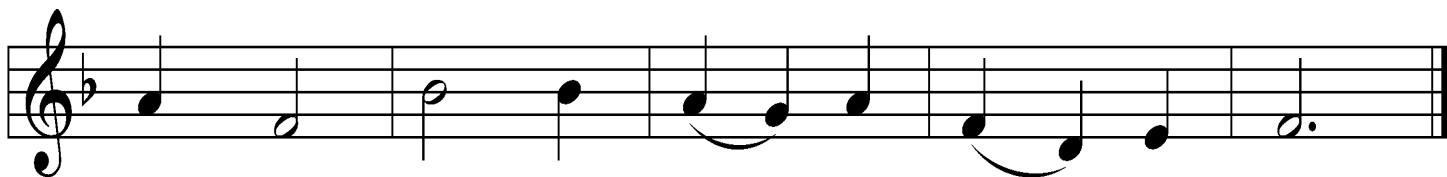
LSB 375



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the  
2 Christ, from heav'n to us descend-ing And in  
3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen - dor Beams with  
4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -  
love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -  
com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -  
fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.  
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.  
ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.  
tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

*Verse 5 & 6 on next page*

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing  
When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
And to You we come confessing  
That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,  
From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
Gently lead us and be near us  
Till we join Your choir above.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent.

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## 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

**Pastor** ..... Pastor Christopher Hazzard

**Organist** ..... Elena Miraztchiyska