



A Series of Special Services for Advent

The Amazing Birth of Christians

• Darkness Becomes Light •

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

P *In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

C **Amen.**

P *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light;*

C **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

(The Advent Wreath is lit.)

P *Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."*

C **"Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."**

No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

P *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

C **For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P *Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found. Let us confess our sins, confident that our gracious God forgives us.*

C **Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for Your name's sake!**

P *Peace be with you! Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ tells His Church, "If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven." I, therefore, a called pastor of His Church, by His authority forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

C **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

• Psalm 96 •

P *Sing to the Lord a new song.*

C **Tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples.**

To the Lord a new song sing;
All on earth, your songs employ.
He has done a wondrous thing;
Praise our God with songs of joy.
Come, behold God's glory now:
At the manger lowly bow.

P *For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised; He is to be honored more than all the gods. The gods of all other nations are only idols, but the Lord created the heavens. Glory and majesty surround Him; power and beauty fill His sanctuary.*

C **Praise the Lord, all people on earth; praise His glory and might. Praise the Lord's glorious name; bring an offering and come into His courts. Bow down before the Holy One when He appears; tremble before Him, all the earth!**

P *Say among the nations, "The Lord is king! The earth is set firmly in place and cannot be moved; He will judge the people with justice."*

C **For the Lord is coming to judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with His truth.**

To the Lord a new song sing;
All the earth, your songs employ.
He has done a wondrous thing;
Praise our God with songs of joy.
Come, behold God's glory now:
At the manger lowly bow.

• The Prayer of the Day •

• Old Testament Lesson • Isaiah 61:1-4

"He has sent me ... to proclaim liberty to the captives."

• Epistle Lesson • Ephesians 4:1-10

"When he ascended on high, he led a host of captives."

• The Holy Gospel • John 1:1-14

"He gave the right to become children of God."

• Theme Hymn •

A child is born: from water drawn, baptismal family grows!
God's people stretch through time itself—
through earth and all its woes.
With Christ, our heav'nly brother, we join in unity
And praise our glorious Father for all eternity.

• The Amazing Birth of Christians •

A child is born in Bethlehem, the Savior promised long
In scrolls of prophets' promises; loud hailed in angels' song.
Emmanuel, God with us, has come to heal the earth.
With sages, saints and angel tongues,
proclaim the wondrous birth.

• Apostles' Creed •

• The Offering •

The Prayers • Response

P *God who gives us new birth,*
C **hear our prayer.**

• The Lord's Prayer •

The Benediction • Psalm 96, Numbers 6

P *Oh, sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!*
C **Sing to the Lord, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.**
P *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.*
C **Amen.**

• Hymn •

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story;
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

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