

FIRST MID-WEEK

OF

Advent

PUT ON THE LIGHT!

AS WE GATHER

As Christmas approaches, you may be concerned about preparations for your various holiday celebrations. There are presents to buy, decorations to put up, cards to send, and food to prepare. In the reading from Romans 13, Paul encourages us to “put on the armor of light.” We often do not think about how we are preparing ourselves for Christmas. We are often too focused on preparing the external rather than the internal. As Advent begins, remember to prepare more than presents, decorations, and cards. Prepare your heart and mind, body and soul to be ready when Christ comes again. This includes putting on the armor of light.

+ PREPARATION +

334 O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU



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.

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(Please rise as you are able)

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P Christ is coming soon. Alleluia!

C We await His return and look for His coming.

P God calls us to cast off the works of darkness

C and put on the armor of light.

P The light of Christ shines in the darkness,

C and the darkness cannot overcome it.

P Awake from sleep and walk in the light.

C We walk in the light of the Lord.

P Christ is coming soon. Alleluia!

C We await His return and look for His coming.

HYMN OF LIGHT

Phos Hilaron



L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



G of the im-mor-tal Fa-ther; heav-en-ly, ho-ly,
 bless-ed Je-sus Christ. We have come to the
 set-ting of the sun, and we look to the eve-ning light.
 We sing to God, the Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it:
 You are wor-thy of be-ing praised with pure voic-es for-
 ev-er. O Son of God, O Giv-er of life:
 the u-ni-verse pro-claims Your glo-ry.

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

Psalm 141:1-4; 8

**C Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

P O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly;
hear my voice when I cry to You.

**C Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

P Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
and guard the door of my lips.

**C Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.**

P But my eyes are turned to You, O God;
in You I take refuge. Strip me not of my life.

**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.
Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated

883 ALL PRAISE TO THEE, MY GOD, THIS NIGHT



1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the
2 For - give me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that
3 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as
4 Oh, may my soul in Thee re - pose, And may sweet



bles - sings of the light. Keep me, O keep me,
I this day have done, That with the world, my -
lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die that
sleep mine eye - lids close, Sleep that shall me more



King of kings, Be - neath Thine own al - might - y wings.
self, and Thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.
so I may Rise glo - rious at the awe - full day.
vig - 'rous make To serve my God when I a - wake!

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OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 2:1–5

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 13:11–14

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please rise as you are able)

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36–44

“But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

- P** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.
- C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Please be seated

SERMON: The Light is coming, and we Reflect that light.

933 MY SOUL REJOICES



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



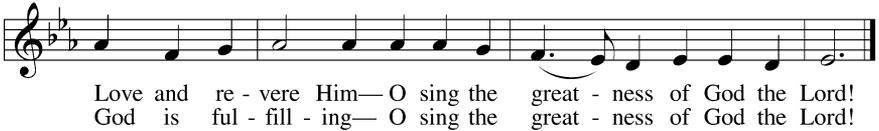
bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
 halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
 wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
 to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



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OFFERING

(Please rise as you are able)

LITANY

P In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For Dr. Harrison our Synod President and Dr. Walton, our District President for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the President of the United States of America and our congress and for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

C **Alleluia.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

C **To You, O Lord.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **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.

357 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d' rest all things
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
 tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!
 And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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