

ADVENT SATURDAY VESPERS  
12 December 2020

Opening

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.  
**A light no darkness can extinguish.**

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.  
**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of light and darkness, to you be glory and praise for ever. As evening falls, you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your presence. May your word be a lantern to our feet and a light upon our path so that we may behold your coming among us. Strengthen us in our stumbling weakness and free our tongues to sing your praise.

Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, one God.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Psalm: Psalm 89

*Psalmist*

I will keep my love for you for ever.  
**I will keep my love for you for ever.**

- <sup>1</sup> Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.  
<sup>2</sup> For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever; \*  
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.  
<sup>3</sup> "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; \*  
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:  
<sup>4</sup> 'I will establish your line for ever, \*  
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"

*People*

**I will keep my love for you for ever.**

- <sup>19</sup> You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: \*
- "I have set the crown upon a warrior  
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- <sup>20</sup> I have found David my servant; \*
- with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- <sup>21</sup> My hand will hold him fast \*
- and my arm will make him strong.
- <sup>22</sup> No enemy shall deceive him, \*
- nor any wicked one bring him down.
- <sup>23</sup> I will crush his foes before him \*
- and strike down those who hate him.

*People*

**I will keep my love for you for ever.**

- <sup>24</sup> My faithfulness and love shall be with him, \*
- and he shall be victorious through my name.
- <sup>25</sup> I shall make his dominion extend \*
- from the Great Sea to the River.
- <sup>26</sup> He will say to me, 'You are my Father, \*
- my God, and the rock of my salvation'."

*People*

**I will keep my love for you for ever.**

**Reading: Luke 1.26-38**

A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How

can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Reflection

*What is God asking you to do at this time in your life?*

## The Responsory

My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.**

There is forgiveness with you,  
so that you shall be held in awe.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.**

Reveal among us the light of your presence,  
so that we may behold your power and glory.

**My soul is waiting for you, Light of my salvation:  
in your word is my hope.**

## The Litany

*Before the Litany is said or sung, particular intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember*

- ❖ *the church, that we may be ready for the coming of Christ;*
- ❖ *the leaders of the church;*
- ❖ *the nations, that they may seek peace and reconciliation;*

- ❖ *those who are working for justice in the world and*
- ❖ *the broken, that they may find God's healing.*

Watchful at all times, let us pray to God for strength to stand with confidence.

God, our Maker and Redeemer, fill the earth with justice and compassion.  
**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

Establish righteousness in the nations.  
**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

Bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen.  
**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

Shine the light of Christ on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death.  
**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

Empower us, with all the saints in light, to be your witnesses in the world.  
**God of Mary and Joseph, hear and have mercy.**

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Saviour. Make our hearts leap with joy and fill our mouths with songs of praise, so that we may announce glad tidings of peace and welcome your Christ into our midst. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Awaiting his coming in glory and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,  
**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Sending Forth**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

May Christ, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**