

Vespers in the Week of Advent 1

2 DECEMBER 2021



Preparation

Presider

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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

**Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

‘Blest Be the
God of Israel’
*Evangelical
Lutheran
Worship #552*

Cantor

I

Blest be the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us,
and grants us liberty.

The prophets spoke of mercy,
of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise
to bring our people peace.

‘Blest Be the
God of Israel’
*Evangelical
Lutheran
Worship #552
(continued)*

||

Now from the house of David
a child of grace has come,
a Saviour who will lead us
to our eternal home.
Before him goes the herald,
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the harbinger of day.

‘Blest Be the
God of Israel’
*Evangelical
Lutheran
Worship #552
(continued)*

III

On all by death imprisoned
the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner’s eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace;
oh, bless our God and Saviour
with songs that never cease!

Philippians 1.12-18a

Reader

A reading from the Letter to the Philippians.

I want you to know, beloved, that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear.

Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice.

Reflection

Following the Reading, we reflect on the Word. We conclude with

Reader

My soul is waiting for you, O Lord:
in your word is my hope.

There is forgiveness with you,
so that you shall be feared.

Prayer

Presider

Let us remember

- the Church, that we may be ready for the coming of Christ;
- the leaders of the Church, lay and ordained;
- the nations, that they may be subject to the rule of God;
- those who are working for justice in the world;
- the broken, that they may find God's healing; and
- any other intercession, petition and thanksgiving

Silence

Litany

Presider

Jesus, servant of God, you bring justice to the nations: **come, Lord Jesus.**

You love your people with a faithful love: **come, Lord Jesus.**

You were lifted up on the cross so that you might draw all people to yourself: **come, Lord Jesus.**

You bring hope and joy to those who walk in the valley and shadow of death: **come, Lord Jesus.**

You have liberated us so that we might be free for ever: **come, Lord Jesus.**

You, O Christ, are our justice, our peace and our redemption: **come, Lord Jesus.**

Collect

Presider

God of our salvation,
you straighten the winding ways of our hearts
and smooth the paths made rough by sin.
Make our conduct blameless,
keep our hearts watchful in holiness,
and bring to perfection the good you have begun in us.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider

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.

Sending Forth

Deacon (or Presider)

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Presider

May the Lord, when he comes, find us watching and waiting.

Amen.