



Concordia Lutheran Church

ADVENT MIDWEEK VESPERS 1

“OLD TESTAMENT CHRISTMAS”

Wednesday, December 6th, 2023

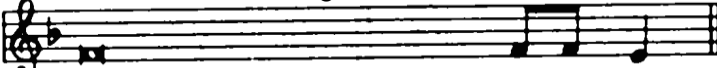
ADVENT MIDWEEK VESPERS 1

This is a time of year when we cherish moments with family and friends by taking photographs. We look back on these images to remember what took place, to fill us with joy when family and friends are absent, and to remind us of their love. Tonight, we begin an Advent series on images through which God addresses His people, calls them to joy in His promises, and reminds us of His unfailing love and presence. These are living pictures of God's gracious acts to redeem His people.

Tonight, we look at the burning bush and the Lord's address to Moses. This picture is even more meaningful because it was the pre-incarnate Christ who stood before Moses and spoke through the burning bush, foreshadowing the incarnation itself, which is the focus of Christmas.

EVENING SERVICE OF LIGHT

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



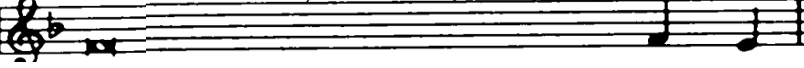
C: THE LIGHT NO DARKNESS CAN O- VER- COME

P: In the beginning was the Word,



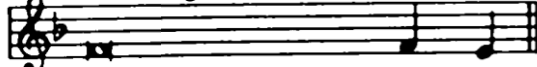
C: AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.

P: In the Word was life;



C: AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF ALL PEO - PLE.

P: Let Your Light scatter our dark-ness.



C: AND ILLUMINE YOUR CHURCH.

P: The Word became flesh and lived among us,



C: WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH

Phos Hilaron - Hymn of Light

Jesus, joyous light of glory,
Holy and blest,
Son of the immortal Father,
Highest and best:
Now while day to night surrenders,
In the sunset's fading splendor,
Songs of praise to You we render—
Lord, be our rest.

Tune Maroon Hymnal #922

Christ, of all life's good the Giver,
With one accord
You are worthy, now and ever
To be adored;
So the world its glory bringing
Joins celestial voices ringing:
Father, Son, and Spirit singing—
"One holy Lord!"

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

P: (Sung) 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 (SUNG)**

PSALM 141

1. LORD, LET MY PRAYER LIKE INCENSE RISE,
AND WHEN I LIFT MY HANDS TO THEE,
AS ON THE EVENING SACRIFICE
LOOK DOWN FROM HEAV'N WELL-PLEAS'D ON ME.

2. SET NOW A WATCH TO KEEP MY TONGUE,
LET NOT MY HEART TO SIN INCLINE;
SAVE ME FROM THOSE WHO PRACTICE WRONG,
LET ME NOT SHARE THEIR MIRTH AND WINE.

TUNE MAROON HYMNAL # 615

3. AND LORD REDEEM ME FROM THE SNARES
WITH WHICH THE WORLD SURROUNDS MY FEET,
ITS RICHES, VANITIES, AND CARES,
ITS LOVE, ITS HATRED, ITS DECEIT.

4. TO GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON,
AND GOD THE SPIRIT, THREE IN ONE,
SHALL GLORY, PRAISE, AND HONOR BE
NOW AND THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.

PRAYER

- P: O Holy Wisdom and Holy Word of God, by whom the Creator governs all creation with Almighty, yet Fatherly care.
- C: **Come, and show Your holy people the way to salvation.**
- P: O Savior of ancient Israel, who revealed Yourself to Moses in the burning bush, and gave Your holy Law on Mt. Sinai to Your covenant nation.
- C: **Come down o Redeemer, and stretch out Your mighty hand to set us free from sin, death and the devil. Grant this O Jesus, Messiah and Christ, even as you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God. Amen**

(please be seated)

HYMN

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Maroon Hymnal # 357

OLD COVENANT LESSON -

Exodus 3:1–14

A reading from Exodus, the third chapter. Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” And He said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.” But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I

should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” He said, “But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.” Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?” God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And He said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I am has sent me to you.’”

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26, 43–45 spoken

C **Sing to Him, sing prais- | es to Him;***
tell of all His | wondrous works!

L Oh give thanks to the Lord; call up- | on His name;*
make known His deeds among the | peoples!

C **Sing to Him, sing prais- | es to Him;***
tell of all His | wondrous works!

L Glory in His | holy name;*
let the hearts of those who seek the | Lord rejoice!

C **Seek the Lord | and His strength;***
seek His presence con- | tinually!

L Remember the wondrous works that | He has done,*
His miracles, and the judgments He | uttered,

C **O offspring of Abraham, His | servant,***
children of Jacob, His | chosen ones!

L Then Israel came to | Egypt;*
Jacob sojourned in the | land of Ham.

C **And the Lord made His people very | fruitful***
and made them stronger | than their foes.

L He turned their hearts to hate His | people,*
to deal craftily with His | servants.

C **He sent Moses, His | servant,***
and Aaron, whom He had | chosen.

L So He brought His people | out with joy,*
His chosen ones with | singing.

C And He gave them the lands of the | nations,*
and they took possession of the fruit of the | peoples' toil,
L that they might keep His | statutes*
and observe His laws. | Praise the Lord!

C Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Sing to Him, sing prais- | es to Him;*
tell of all His | wondrous works!

New Covenant Lesson – John 15:1–8

A reading from John, the fifteenth chapter.

[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of Mine that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.”

L: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

Maroon Hymnal p. 230

L: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C: **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

L: In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.
C: **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

L: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
C: **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

HOMILY - OLD TESTAMENT CHRISTMAS

OFFERING

ADVENT OFFERTORY - "O Lord How Shall I Meet You" Maroon Hymnal # 334
(Please stand for last verse as you are able)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Lamb of God, You once came to rid the world of sin;
C: **Cleanse us now from every stain of sin.**

P: Lord, you came to save Your fallen creation;
C: **Come with Your salvation power, so those You redeem shall be released from the fear of death and the evil one.**

P: We have come to know You in faith;
C: **May we have unending joy when You come again in glory. Grant this even as you live and reign with Father and the Holy Spirit, and have taught us to always pray.....**

Lord's Prayer

P: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.
C: **Even unto life everlasting.**

P: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
C: **To honor his gracious Name, at the rising of the sun.**

P: To sing praises to the most high God all day long.

C: And rest in His mercy at the close of the day.

P: May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus fill you with you with every spiritual blessing so you may live in faith, fear, hope and wonder, now and forever.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Unto life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN

“Sing Praise to the God of Israel”

Maroon Hymnal # 936