



**St. Luke's
Lutheran Church**



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Manhattan, KS 66503
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www.stlukesmanhattan.org

Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 – 7:30 PM

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music*

**Advent Midweek 3
Resounding Psalms for Advent: Returned**

AS WE GATHER

We do not often emphasize the psalms during the Advent season, instead being eager to read about the prophecies, anticipating Jesus' coming. Yet the psalms are God's Word during terrible times to people who lived before God's promises were fulfilled in our Savior's coming. This Advent, we focus on several psalms as we use them to prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth with open eyes and ears.

Today we focus on Psalm 126, which speaks of the exiles that returned to Zion. And our joy shall be greater, for we will return to the new Eden, God's great garden!

IMAGE ON THE COVER

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad. *Psalm 126:1–3*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

LIGHTING OF CANDLES (*INCLUDING THE ADVENT WREATH*)

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.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,
 Cannot His love erase;
 Your guilt the Lord will pardon
 And cover by His grace.
 He comes, for you procuring
 The peace of sin forgiv'n,
 His children thus securing
 Eternal life in heav'n.

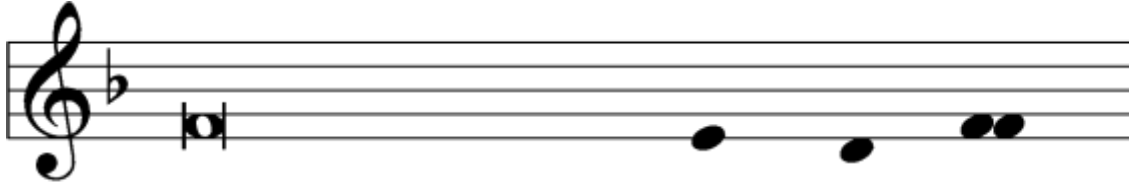
6 He comes to judge the nations,
 A terror to His foes,
 A light of consolations
 And blessèd hope to those
 Who love the Lord's appearing.
 O glorious Sun, now come,
 Send forth Your beams so
 cheering,
 And guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

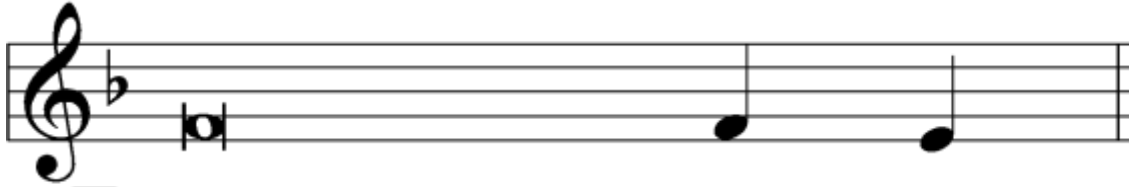
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text and tune: Public domain

✠SERVICE OF LIGHT ✠

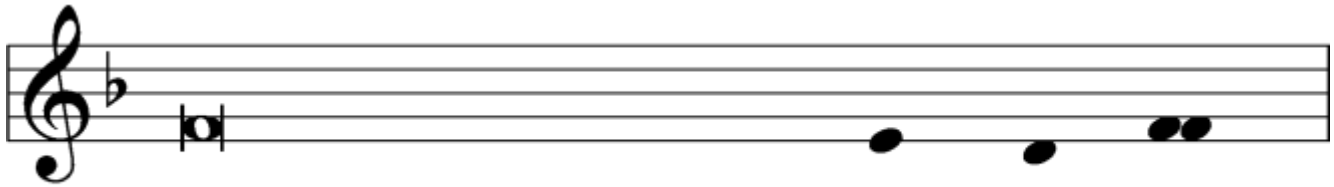
Stand



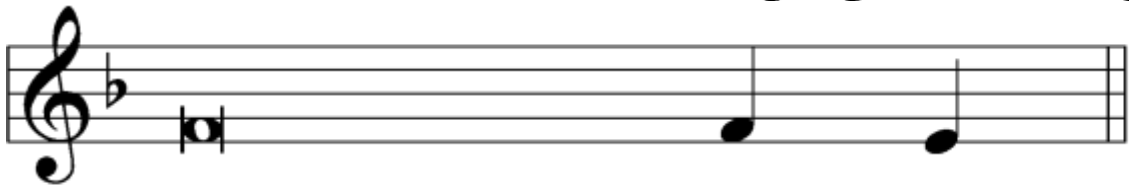
L The Spirit and the Church cry out:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



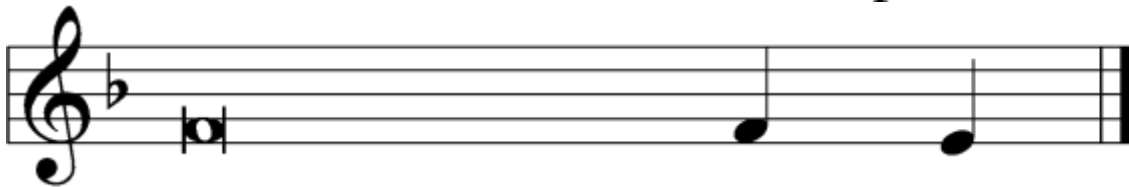
L All those who await His ap - pear - ance pray:



C Come, Lord Je - sus.



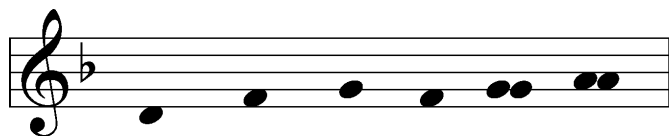
L The whole cre - a - tion pleads:



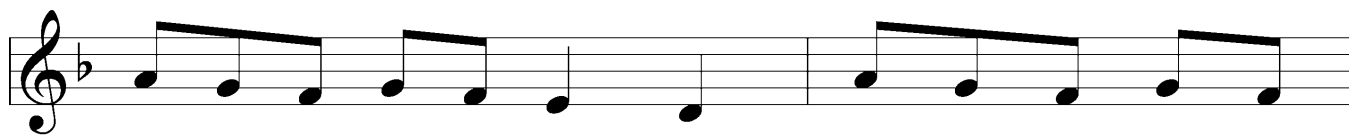
C Come, Lord Je - sus.

CANTICLE – PHOS HILARON “Hymn of Light”

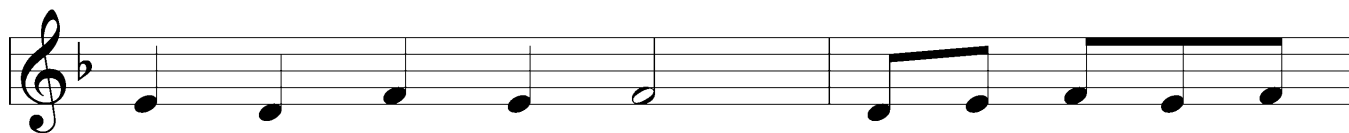
LSB 244



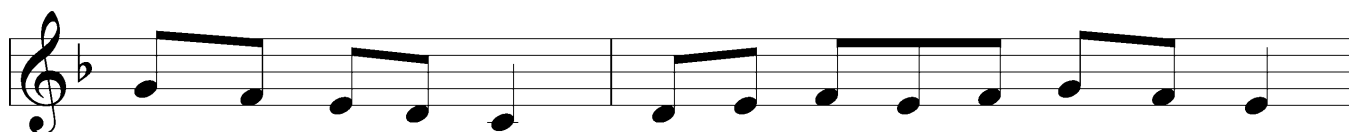
L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



C of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



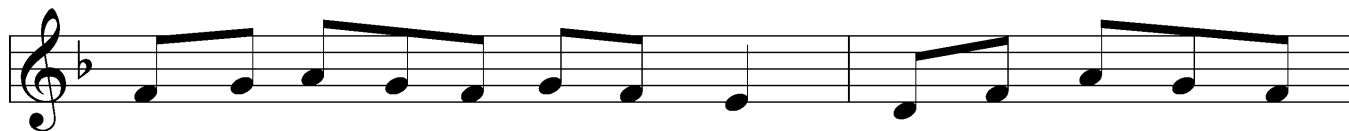
bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



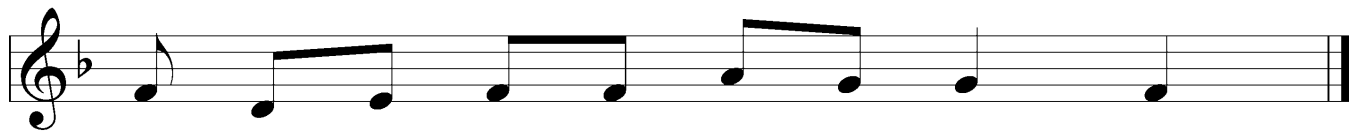
We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:



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.

COLLECT – “Thanksgiving for Light”

LSB 245



L Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the u - ni - verse,



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 mer - ci - ful, and You love Your whole cre - a - tion



and we, Your creatures, glo - ri - fy You, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it.



C A - men.

Sit

✠PSALMODY✠

348 THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS

sts. 1–3



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

Text and tune: Public domain

READING

Psalms 26; antiphon: v. 5

P ⁵Those who sow in tears

C shall reap with shouts of joy!

P ¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

C we were like those who dream.

P ²Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

C and our tongue with shouts of joy;

P then they said among the nations,

“The LORD has done great things for them.”

C ³The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

P ⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD,


C like streams in the Negeb!

- P** ⁵Those who sow in tears
C shall reap with shouts of joy!
- P** ⁶He who goes out weeping,
 bearing the seed for sowing,
C shall come home with shouts of joy,
 bringing his sheaves with him.
- 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.


- P** ⁵Those who sow in tears
C shall reap with shouts of joy!

348 THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS

sts. 4–5



4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

Text and tune: Public domain

✠READINGS✠

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

(The prophet promises not only a return, but one in rebuilding with freedom and joy.)

- ¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .
⁸For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

(By our Baptism, we return to the Father with a new reality in Christ.)

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.

²¹Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

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.**

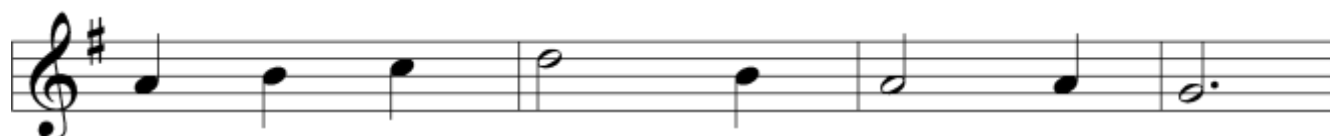
Sit

JESUS, THY CHURCH WITH LONGING EYES

TLH 64



1 Je - sus, Thy Church with long - ing eyes
 2 E'en now, when tem - pests round us fall
 3 Come, gra - cious Lord, our hearts re - new,
 4 Oh, come and reign o'er ev - 'ry land;
 5 Teach us in watch - ful - ness and prayer



For Thine ex - pect - ed com - ing waits.
 And win - try clouds o'er - cast the sky,
 Our foes re - pel, our wrongs re - dress,
 Let Sa - tan from his throne be hurled,
 To wait for the ap - point - ed hour



When will the prom - ised light a - rise
 Thy words with plea - sure we re - call
 Man's root - ed en - mi - ty sub - due,
 All na - tions bow to Thy com - mand,
 And fit us by Thy grace to share



And glo - ry beam from Zi - on's gates?
 And deem that our re - demp - tion's nigh.
 And crown Thy Gos - pel with suc - cess.
 And grace re - vive a dy - ing world.
 The tri - umphs of Thy con - quer'ing pow'r.

Text: William H. Bathurst, 1796–1877

Tune: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, Nürnberg, 1676

Text: Public domain

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SERMON

VOTUM

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

OFFERING

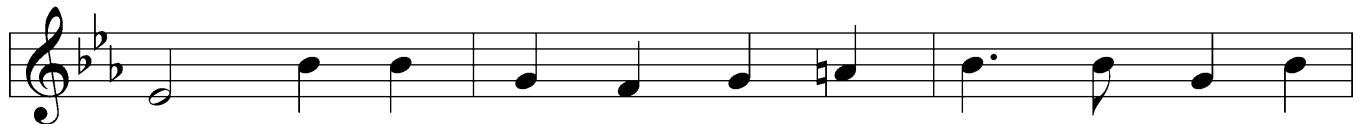
Stand

✠ CANTICLE ✠

MAGNIFICAT

HYMN – “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”

LSB 934



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002155

Tune: Public domain

PRAYERS

P Let us pray.

O Lord who in the past returned Your people to the Promised Land, hear us as we pray for ourselves and all the Church: Strengthen our hope in all Your gracious promises, and increase faith and love among us and toward the world. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

C **Hear our prayer, O Lord. Return us to trust all Your promises, and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

P Hear us as we pray for all who have been forgotten by the world's commerce: Surround with faith-filled people all who are hungry and homeless, the many who are migrants and refugees, people dealing with sudden ills and long-term disabilities, and all who are in mourning. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

C **Hear our prayer, O Lord. Return us to trust all Your promises, and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

P In the midst of a dark world You send us. Renew in us true faith and peace, faithfulness in worship, a spiritual vitality, and a confidence in Your promise of eternal life. Grant that many join us in fruitful worship. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

C **Hear our prayer, O Lord. Return us to trust all Your promises, and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

P By the blessed coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gave us His own righteousness, grant these our prayers, for we pray in His name.

C **Amen.**

Collect for Today

- P** Return us to Your eternal Eden, Lord our God,
C and grant us such a sense of joy that the people around us may seek You and Your gracious blessings;
- P** through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Collect from Sunday

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers
C and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation;
- P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

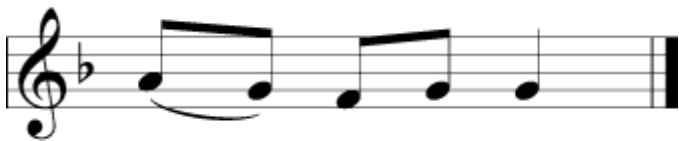
P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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

LSB 252

P Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB 252

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.



C A - men.

366 IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 All you, be - neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low,
 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world.
 Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow:
 When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,
 His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom - ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Evening Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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