

Evening Prayer: pg. 215

335 To Shepherds as They Watched by Night

CW 335

1 To shepherds as they watched by night
appeared a host of angels bright;

“Behold the tender babe,” they said,
“in yonder lowly manger laid,

2 “At Bethlehem, in David’s town,
as Micah did of old make known.

It is the Christ, your Lord and King,
who will to all salvation bring.”

3 O then rejoice that through his Son
God is with sinners now at one;
made like yourselves of flesh and blood,
your brother is th’ eternal God.

4 What harm can sin and death then do?
The true God now abides with you.

Let hell and Satan storm and rave,
Christ is your brother—you are safe.

5 Not one he will or can forsake;
his promise he will never break.

Let ev’ry scheme the tempter try,
you may his utmost pow’rs defy.

Please stand for the final stanza

6 You shall and must at last prevail;
 God's own you are, you cannot fail.
 To God forever sing your praise
 with joy and patience all your days.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.

Text: Public domain

(Stand)

Opening Sentences

CW 215

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
and the day is almost over.

Be our light and scatter the darkness,
and hear our evening prayer and praise.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716852

Hymn of Light

CW 216

- 1 Gladd'ning light of purest glory,
 shining down from heav'n on high,
 from the everliving Father—
 hail, most blessed Jesus Christ!
- 2 In the fading light of evening,
 as the setting sun departs,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—
 we adore you, Lord our God.

3 For your gift of life unending,
 joyful voices ever sing
 hymns of praise that rightly honor,
 Son of God, your saving name.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe,
 who led your people Israel with 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. We, your creatures, glorify
 you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Text: © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716852

Be seated

Psalm 141

CW 217

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

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

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

Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord,
and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing
your praises with the Church on earth and forever in
heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

89 Forever I Will Sing

Psalm 89

Refrain

**Forever I will sing the goodness of the LORD, the
goodness of the LORD.**

I will sing of the LORD's great love for- / ever;

with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all gener- / ations.

I will declare that your love stands firm for- / ever,

that you have established your faithfulness in / heav'n
itself.

The heavens praise your / wonders, LORD,

your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the / holy
ones. *Refrain*

Who is like you, LORD God Al- / mighty?

You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness sur- /
rounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to ac- / claim you,

who walk in the light of your / presence, LORD.
 They rejoice in your name / all day long;
 they celebrate your / righteousness.
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. Refrain

Text: © 1969, 1981, 1997 ICEL (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716852

Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear
 and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew
 our hearts that we may live for you here and hereafter;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

²But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 though you are small among the clans of Judah,
 from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler
 for me in Israel.

His goings forth are from the beginning, from the
 days of eternity.

³Therefore the LORD will give them up,
 until the time when the woman who is in labor
 bears a child.

Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will

return to the people of Israel.

⁴He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵This one will be their peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said:

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but you prepared a body for me.

⁶You were not pleased
with burnt offerings and sin offerings.

⁷Then I said, “Here I am.

I have come to do your will, God.

In the scroll of the book it is written about me.”

⁸First he said:

Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according
to the law,

both burnt offerings and sin offerings,

you did not desire,
and you were not pleased with them.

⁹Then he said:

Here I am.

I have come to do your will.

He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39–55

³⁹In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵Blessed is she who believed,

because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!”

⁴⁶Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

⁴⁸because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

327 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. (Refrain)

Ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!

2 O come, O Root of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. (Refrain)

3 O come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

4 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. (Refrain)

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

Micah 5:2-5a

Christmas Questions

I. Who will the Savior be? (2-3)

II. What will the Savior do? (4-5a)

(Stand)

Song of Mary

CW 220

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
 my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
 for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
 From this day all generations
 will call me blessed

The Almighty has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
 He has mercy on those who fear him
 in ev'ry generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
 and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise made to our fathers, to Abraham,
and to his children forever. Amen.

Offering

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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:

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors
in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for
all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

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

Thanks be to God.

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

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

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

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.

Let us praise the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

Blessing

The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Amen.

(Be seated)

314 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

CW 314

1 O Savior, rend the heavens wide;
 come down, come down with mighty stride.
 Unlock the gates, the doors break down;
 unbar the way to heaven's crown.

2 O Morning Star, O radiant Dawn,
when will we sing your morning song?
Come, Son of God! Without your light
we grope in dread and gloom of night.

3 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;
grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
Come lead us with your mighty hand
from exile to our promised land.

4 There shall we all our praises bring
and sing to you, our Savior-King;
there shall we laud you and adore
forever and forevermore.

Text: tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–1967, alt.; Friedrich von Spee, 1591–1635, abr.

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716852

Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.