

Advent Midweek Service
Vespers

December 16th
7:00pm

Day VI: The War

And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child,
that he might devour her child... Now war arose in heaven.
Revelation 12:4, 7

*This birth's a signal for war. Lovers fight,
Friends fall out. Merry toasts from flagons
Of punch are swallowed in the maw of dragons.
Will mother and baby survive this devil night?*

*I've done my share of fighting in the traffic:
Kitchen quarrels, playground fisticuffs:
Every cherub choir has its share of toughs,
And then one day I learned the fight was cosmic.*

*Truce: I lay down arms; my arms fill up
With gifts: wild and tame, real and stuffed*

*Lions. Lambs play, oxen low,
The infant fathers festive force. One crow*

*Croaks defiance into the shalom whiteness,
Empty, satanic bluster against the brightness.*

From *The Twelve Days of Christmas*
By Eugene Peterson

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“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

LSB 334

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,
How welcome You aright? Your people long to greet You,
My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly
All that may please You best.
- 2 Your Zion strews before You
Green boughs and fairest palms; And I too will adore
You With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever For You with praises new
And from Your name shall never
Withhold the honor due.
- 3 I lay in fetters, groaning;
You came to set me free. I stood, my shame bemoaning;
You came to honor me.
A glorious crown You give me, A treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me
As earthly riches fly.
- 4 Love caused Your incarnation;
Love brought You down to me. Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen 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 blessed 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.

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P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: **And my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: **Make haste, to help me O Lord.**

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.**

Praise to You, O Christ. King who comes to save us.

PSALM 110



L: The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my | right hand.*
until I make your enemies your | footstool."

C: **The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty | scepter.*
Rule in the midst of your | enemies!**

L: Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your
power, in holy | garments.*
from the wombs of the morning, the
dew of your youth | will be yours.

C: **The Lord has sworn and will not | change his mind,*
"You are a priest forever after the
order of Mel- | chizedek."**

L: The Lord is at your | right hand;*
He will shatter kings on the day | of his wrath.

C: **He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them
with | corpses;*
he will shatter chiefs over the | wide earth.**

L: He will drink from the brook | by the way;*
Therefore he will lift | up his head.

C: **Glory be 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.**

(Please sit)

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.

4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

READING

1 John 3:1-10

¹ See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears^[a] we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. ⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. ¹⁰ By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

P: O Lord have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

READING

Revelation 12:13-17

¹³ And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. ¹⁴ But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. ¹⁵ The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. ¹⁶ But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. ¹⁷ Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood^[a] on the sand of the sea.

P: O Lord have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

ADVENT RESPONSORY

P: 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.

P; 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.

P: 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.

SERMON

(Please stand)

CANTICLE

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C: and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

MAGNIFICAT

**C: My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
for He has regarded
the lowliness of His handmaiden.
For behold, from this day
all generations will call me blessed.
For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
and holy is His name;
and his mercy is on those who fear Him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with His arm;
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their
hearts.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has exalted the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich He has sent empty away.**

**He has helped His servant Israel
in remembrance of His mercy
as He spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his seed forever.
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.**

KYRIE

C: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

COLLECTS

P: O Lord, hear my prayer.

C: And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT OF THE DAY 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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

C: Amen

ADDITIONAL COLLECTS

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

“Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You”

LSB 668

- 1 Rise! To arms! With prayer employ you,
O Christians, lest the foe destroy you;
For Satan has designed your fall.
Wield God's Word, the weapon glorious;
Against all foes be thus victorious,
For God protects you from them all.
Fear not the hordes of hell, Here is Emmanuel.
Hail the Savior! The strong foes yield
To Christ, our shield, And we, the victors, hold the field.
- 2 Cast afar this world's vain pleasure
And boldly strive for heav'nly treasure.
Be steadfast in the Savior's might.
Trust the Lord, who stands beside you,
For Jesus from all harm will hide you.
By faith you conquer in the fight. Take courage, weary soul!
Look forward to the goal! Joy awaits you.
The race well run, Your long war won,
Your crown shines splendid as the sun.
- 3 Wisely fight, for time is fleeting;
The hours of grace are fast retreating;
Short, short is this our earthly way.
When the Lord the dead will waken
And sinners all by fear are shaken,
The saints with joy will greet that day.
Praise God, our triumph's sure. We need not long endure
Scorn and trial. Our Savior King
His own will bring To that great glory which we sing.

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In order to assist with social distancing an usher will dismiss by rows. Please take your bulletin with you or throw it away (no return bulletins).