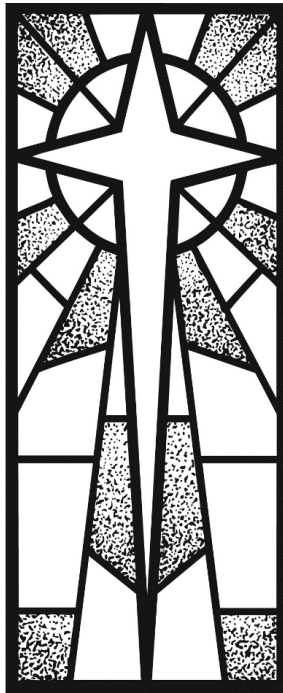


First Midweek Advent Worship

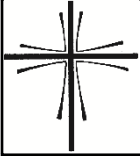
“Praise the LORD”

Advent Meditations on Psalm 148



Calvary Lutheran Church
9807 Church Road
Dallas, Tx 75238 + 214-348-5567
www.calvarydallas.org

December 6, 2023 7:00 p.m.



Order of Service for FIRST MIDWEEK ADVENT

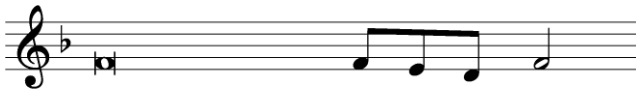
ORDER OF SERVICE

Evening Prayer (*Vespers*), CW page 215

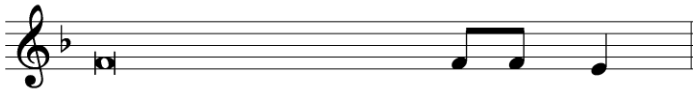
The Service of Light

OPENING SENTENCES

Stand



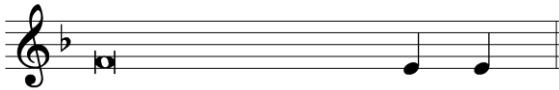
Jesus Christ is the light of the world,



the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



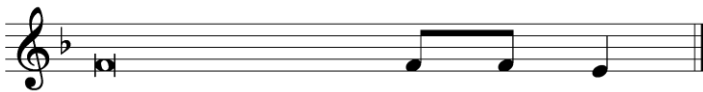
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,



and the day is almost o - ver.



Be our light and scat - ter the darkness,



and hear our evening prayer and praise.

EVENING HYMN

795 (1,2) – The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Is Ended



1 The day you gave us, Lord, is end - ed, the dark - ness
2 We thank you that your Church, un - sleep - ing while earth rolls



falls at your re - quest; to you our morn - ing
on - ward in - to light, through all the world her



hymns as - cend - ed, your praise shall sanc - ti - fy our rest.
watch is keep - ing and nev - er rests by day or night.

Lord God, we thank you for this day of grace now drawing to a close. Stay with us and warm our hearts with your forgiving love in Christ. May your Word keep our faith burning brightly that we may walk in the light of your presence through the darkness of this world. Come and bless us as we worship you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Be Seated



LET MY PRAYER RISE BEFORE YOU

Psalm 141

Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.
O LORD, I call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice
when I cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

PSALM PRAYER

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.

READING

Job 38,39: selected verses

Through a series of questions, God solicits our awe at His creating power and wisdom

JOB 38:4 “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. ⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? ⁶ On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone— ⁷ while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

⁸ “Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, ⁹ when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, ¹⁰ when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, ¹¹ when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt’?

¹² “Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place, ¹³ that it might take the earth by the edges and shake the wicked out of it?

¹⁶ “Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? ¹⁷ Have the gates of death been shown to you? Have you seen the gates of the deepest darkness? ¹⁸ Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth? Tell me, if you know all this.

¹⁹ “What is the way to the abode of light? And where does darkness reside? ²⁰ Can you take them to their places? Do you know the paths to their dwellings? ²¹ Surely you know, for you were already born! You have lived so many years! ²² “Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of the hail, ²³ which I reserve for times of trouble, for days of war and battle? ²⁴ What is the way to the place where the lightning is dispersed, or the place where the east winds are scattered over the earth? ²⁵ Who cuts a channel for the torrents of rain, and a path for the thunderstorm, ²⁶ to water a land where no one lives, an uninhabited desert, ²⁷ to satisfy a desolate wasteland and make it sprout with grass? ²⁸ Does the rain have a father? Who fathers the drops of dew? ²⁹ From whose womb comes the ice? Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens ³⁰ when the waters become hard as stone, when the surface of the deep is frozen?

³¹ “Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades? Can you loosen Orion’s belt? ³² Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons or lead out the Bear with its cubs? ³³ Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up God’s dominion over the earth? ³⁴ “Can you raise your voice to the clouds and cover yourself with a flood of water? ³⁵ Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? Do they report to you, ‘Here we are’?

³⁷ Who has the wisdom to count the clouds? Who can tip over the water jars of the heavens ³⁸ when the dust becomes hard and the clods of earth stick together?

³⁹ “Do you hunt the prey for the lioness and satisfy the hunger of the lions ⁴⁰ when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in a thicket? ⁴¹ Who provides food for the raven when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food? ^{39:1} “Do you know when the mountain goats give birth? Do you watch when the doe bears her fawn? ² Do you count the months till they bear? Do you know the time they give birth?

⁵ “Who let the wild donkey go free? Who untied its ropes?

⁹ “Will the wild ox consent to serve you? Will it stay by your manger at night? ¹⁰ Can you hold it to the furrow with a harness? Will it till the valleys behind you? ¹¹ Will you rely on it for its great strength? Will you leave your heavy work to it? ¹² Can you trust it to haul in your grain and bring it to your threshing floor?

²⁶ “Does the hawk take flight by your wisdom and spread its wings toward the south? ²⁷ Does the eagle soar at your command and build its nest on high?

RESPONSE

956 – Holy Is Your Name

Children of Calvary School sing vs. 1,2. Congregation is invited to join in singing vs. 3-5.



1 My _____ soul is filled with joy as I
 2 I am low - ly as a child, but I
 3 I pro - claim your pow'r, O God! You work
 4 To the hun - gry you give food, send the
 5 In your love you now ful - fill all you



sing to God, my Sav - ior. You have looked up - on your
 know from this day for - ward that my name will be re -
 won - ders for your ser - vants; you have scat - tered the proud -
 rich a - way with noth - ing. In your mer - cy you are
 prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, God, my



ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.
 mem - bered, and the world will call me bless - ed.
 heart - ed, you have lift - ed up the low - ly.
 mind - ful of the peo - ple you have cho - sen.
 Sav - ior, ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy.

Refrain



And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -



a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the



peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name!

CATECHISM READING

The First Article (Creation)

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God created me and all that exists, and that he gave me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my mind and all my abilities.

And I believe that God still preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life. God also preserves me by defending me against all danger, guarding and protecting me from all evil. All this God does only because he is my good and merciful Father in heaven, and not because I have earned or deserved it. For all this I ought to thank and praise, to serve and obey him.

This is most certainly true.

HYMN

338 – On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Children of Calvary School



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
2 When sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then life and health come
3 All out of dark - ness we have light, which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, on Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing to
in its place, when sin de - parts be - fore his grace, then
sing this night, all out of dark - ness we have light, which



hear the news the an - gels bring, news of great joy, news
life and health come in its place; an - gels and saints with
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God and



of great mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.
joy may sing, all for to see the new - born King.
peace to men now and for - ev - er - more. A - men."

ADVENT MEDITATION

Psalm 148:1-6

Praise God from Whom All Things Are

ANNOUNCEMENTS and MUSICAL OFFERING

We appreciate the offerings given to support the work of God's Kingdom here and throughout the world.

Offerings can be given in any of these ways:

- Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary
- On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>
- Scan the QR code to the right...



Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card, or by filling out the card in the pew and placing it in the offering plate as you leave. The Connection Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website, <https://calvarydallas.org> or by scanning the QR code above.

LORD, HAVE MERCY (Kyrie)

Stand

In peace let us pray to the Lord:



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




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:



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



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 mer - cy.

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 mer - cy.

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




Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated

HYMN

352 – Joy Has Dawned

Children of Calvary School sing vs. 1,2. The congregation is invited to join in singing vs. 3,4.

352 Joy Has Dawned



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—
 2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels
 3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.
 4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
 as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.
 Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:
 rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!



Not with fan-fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
 Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,
 gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense—God is with us;
 What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.
 cling now to a moth - er's breast, _ vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
 myrrh— his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.
 Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, _ now the Lord of his - t'ry.

PRAYER

Abide with us, Lord, for it is evening and the day is almost over. Abide with us and with your whole Church. Abide with us in the evening of the day, in the evening of life, in the evening of the world. Abide with us in your grace and goodness, in your holy Word and sacrament, in your comfort and blessing. Abide with us when we are overcome by the night of sorrow and fear, by the night of doubt and affliction, by the night of bitter death. Abide with us and with all your people in time and in eternity. Amen.

BLESSING

The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God

and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.

A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

337 – Silent Night, Holy Night

Children of Calvary School sing vs 1,2. The congregation is invited to sing vs. 3.

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1 Silent night, holy night!
 All is calm, all is bright
 round yon virgin mother and child.
 Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace,
 sleep in heavenly peace.</p> | <p>2 Silent night, holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight.
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!
 Christ, the Savior, is born!</p> |
| <p>3 Silent night, holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light
 radiant beams from thy holy face
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.</p> | |

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Hymn 795 – The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Is Ended

Text: John Ellerton, 1826-1893, abr., alt.

Music: Clement C. Scholefield, 1839-1904

Scripture references: Ps 113:2,3; Mt 25:1-13; Ro 13:11, 12; Eph 6:18; Ps 145:13

Text and music: public domain

Hymn 346 – Angels We Have Heard on High

Text: French; tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.

Tune: French; setting: Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

Scripture references: Lk 2:7-20

Text and music: public domain

Hymn 337 – Silent Night, Holy Night

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863; setting: traditional

Scripture references: Lk 2:6-16; Col 1:13; Tit 2:11-14

Text and music: public domain

Hymn 341 – Away in a Manger

Text: The Myrtle, Boston, 1884, sts. 1,2; Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, st. 3, alt.

Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921; setting: James E. Engel, 1925-1989

Scripture references: Lk 2:7

Text and tune: public domain

Setting: © 1993 James E. Engel, admin. Northwestern Publishing House

353 – Joy to the World

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.; setting: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

Scripture references: Ps 98; Ge 3:17-19; Rev 22: 1-5; Jn 1:17

Text and music: public domain

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