



### Evergreens

“Prepare!” is often the watchword of the season of Advent. An integral part of any preparation is decoration. The world may not comprehend the real meaning of Christmas, but even secular preparations use many of the same decorations beloved by Christians – these decorations point us to Christ. As we look forward to the return of the Messiah, we take a fresh look at how the adornments of the season draw our eyes to Jesus, that we may more richly behold the hope, faith, joy, and peace He comes to bring us.

Tonight, we focus on evergreens. Perhaps the most unassuming decorations to the world, yet their prickles remind us of the crown of thorns; the berries of the holly evoke the blood-stained brow of our crucified Lord; the steadfastness of their green in the midst of winter symbolizes life amid death – eternal life won for us on the tree of Christ’s cross.

Opening Sentences

Psalm

*Psalm 92; antiphon: v. 12*



- P** It is good to give thanks | to the LORD,\*  
to sing praises to Your name, | O Most High;  
to declare Your steadfast love in the | morning,\*  
and Your faithful- | ness by night,
- C** to the music of the lute | and the harp,\*  
to the melody | of the lyre.  
**For You, O LORD, have made me glad | by Your work;\***  
**at the works of Your hands I | sing for joy.**
- P** How great are Your works, | O LORD!\*  
Your thoughts are | very deep!  
The stupid man cannot know; the fool cannot under- | stand this:.\*  
that though the wicked sprout like grass and all evildoers flourish,  
they are doomed to destruction for- | ever;
- C** but You, | O LORD,\*  
are on high for- | ever.  
**For behold, Your enemies, O LORD,**  
**for behold, Your enemies shall | perish;\***  
**all evildoers shall be | scattered.**
- P** But You have exalted my horn like that of the | wild ox;.\*  
You have poured over me | fresh oil.  
My eyes have seen the downfall of my | enemies;.\*  
my ears have heard the doom of my evil as- | sailants.
- C** **The righteous flourish like the | palm tree\***  
**and grow like a cedar in | Lebanon.**  
**They are planted in the house | of the LORD;\***  
**they flourish in the courts | of our God.**
- P** They still bear fruit in | old age;.\*  
they are ever full of | sap and green,  
to declare that the LORD is | upright;.\*  
He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness | in Him.

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.

**C** The righteous flourish like the | palm tree  
 and grow like a cedar in | Lebanon.

**Hymn: People, Look East**

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near Of the crown-ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, One more seed is  
 of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 That in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.

3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
 One more light the bowl shall brim,  
 Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
 Bright as sun and moon together.  
 People, look east, and sing today—  
 Love, the Star, is on the way.

4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
 Him who brings new life to earth.  
 Set ev'ry peak and valley humming  
 With the Word, the Lord is coming.  
 People, look east, and sing today—  
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

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**Old Testament**

**Second Reading**

**Holy Gospel**

**Responsory for Advent**

*Hosea 14:4–8*  
*Revelation 22:1–5*  
*John 11:17–27*  
*LSB 230*

## Catechism

- P** I believe in Jesus Christ, [God's] only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary.
- C** I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.

## Hymn: The Holly and the Ivy



- 1 The hol-ly and the i - vy, when they are both full grown,  
2 The hol-ly bears a blos-som as white as an - y flow'r,  
3 The hol-ly bears a ber - ry as red as an - y blood,



- Of all the trees that are in the wood, the hol - ly bears the crown.  
And Mar-y bore sweet Je-sus Christ to be our sweet Sav - ior.  
And Mar-y bore sweet Je-sus Christ to do poor sin - ners good.

### *Refrain*



Oh, the ris-ing of the sun and the run-ning of the deer.



The play-ing of the mer-ry or-gan, sweet sing-ing in the choir.

- 4 The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn.
- 5 The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall,  
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all.
- 6 The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown.  
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

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## Sermon

## Canticle

*LSB 231*

## Offering

## Prayer

*LSB 233*

## Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**LSB 357 v. 1, 4**