

Lights: Second Wednesday in Advent -- Wednesday December 10th, 2025

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 lights. You see them everywhere this time of year. Some neighborhoods even compete, and tourist destinations spend millions on attractive light displays. Like evergreens, this is something nonreligious people do this time of year without appreciating their true significance. Yet we know that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12). He came to restore righteousness to the world. This restoration continues to unfold through the ministry He has entrusted to His church. As Zechariah sang, “In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace” (*LSB*, Benedictus, Morning Prayer). We gather this evening to bask in the light of Jesus that His Word would have its way with us and so reflect His saving light into the darkness that remains in our world.

Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

Vespers

LSB 229

Psalm

Psalm 118:15–29; antiphon: v. 27



- P** The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine up- | on us.*
Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the | altar!
Glad songs of salvation are in the tents of the | righteous:*
- “The right hand of the LORD does | valiantly,
C the right hand of the | LORD exalts,*
the right hand of the LORD does | valiantly!”
I shall not die, but | I shall live,*
and recount the deeds | of the LORD.
- P** The LORD has disciplined me se- | verely,*
but He has not given me o- | ver to death.
Open to me the gates of | righteousness,*
that I may enter through them and give thanks | to the LORD.
- C** This is the gate | of the LORD;*
the righteous shall enter | through it.
I thank You that You have | answered me*
and have become my sal- | vation.
- P** The stone that the builders re- | jected*
has become the | cornerstone.
This is the LORD’s | doing;*
it is marvelous | in our eyes.

C This is the day that the | LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be | glad in it.

Save us, we pray, | O LORD!*

O LORD, we pray, give | us success!

P Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the LORD!*

We bless you from the house | of the LORD.

The LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine up- | on us.*

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the | altar!

C You are my God, and I will give | thanks to You;*

You are my God; I will ex- | tol You.

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for | He is good;*

for His steadfast love endures for- | ever!

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 LORD is God, and He has made His light to shine up- | on us.*

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the | altar!

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.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965 Text and Tune: Public domain

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1–2, 6–7

P A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

¹ But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

P O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4:3–6

P A reading from Second Corinthians, the fourth chapter.

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

P O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** Thanks be to God.

Third Reading

John 1:1-9

P A reading from John, the first chapter.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory for Advent

LSB 230

Catechism

P I believe in Jesus Christ, [God's] only Son, our Lord, who...suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead.

What does this mean?

C I believe that Jesus Christ...has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

Hymn: The Night Will Soon Be Ending

LSB 337

Sermon

Canticle

LSB 231

Offering

Kyrie

LSB 233

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357 v. 1, 6