

ADVENT NECESSITIES



2007 MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

**Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod**

864-2348 www.mzluth.org

Glorifying God as we Grow in the Gospel and Go with the Gospel

Gathering Rite: Lead Us to Your Light

The opening hymns and songs of Christian worship mean to "gather" individual Christians into a worshipping assembly. What the traditional service does with hymns, canticles, and opening liturgy, this Advent gathering rite does with contemporary song and responses.

LEAD US TO YOUR LIGHT

The choir introduces the refrain. Then the congregation repeats the refrain and sings it again as indicated.



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.



Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Lord, we await your coming to our world;
Bring us the gift of salvation. *refrain*

Lord, you are hope and healing for our world;
Come, now, and bring us your good news. *refrain*

Come, O come, O come, Emmanuel;
Come with us on earth here to dwell. *refrain*


Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber;
Banish the darkness of night. *refrain*

Child of the light and love beyond all telling,
Fill our hearts with wonder and praise. *refrain*

Stand

GREETING

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



C: A - men.

M: The grace of our Lord ✕ Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers his grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for his mercy.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom because all have turned away from you. Lord, have mercy.

(echoing the minister)

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Yet we fill our days and lives with busyness. We do not make time for your Word and Sacrament. Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Make us ready through the blood of Jesus to meet you with uplifted faces. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: May almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

C: A - men.

ABSOLUTION

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.** (*spoken*)

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Be seated

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 38 (page 81)

M: Lord our God, you did not forget the pierced body of your Son and his sighing was not hidden from you. In your kindness look also on us, your children, weighed down with sins, and grant us the fullness of your mercy; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: **Amen.** (*spoken*)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 11:4-16, 39-40

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he^[a] considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

M: The Lord will come again in glory. The Spirit and the Church cry out: Come, Lord Jesus, come.

C: **Amen.** (*spoken*)

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You Hymn 19

SERMON

PSALM 130:5-8

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I put my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the morning,
more than watchmen wait for the morning.

O Israel, put your hope in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

He himself will redeem Israel
from all their sins.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Come Lord Jesus Grades 5-8 11:00 a.m.

Lord, Let Us See Your Kindness Youth Group 7:00 p.m.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Jordan Laabs 11:00 a.m.

Stand

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

M: For all pastors and teachers, that they faithfully instruct those entrusted to their care and exhort them to remain steadfast in the one true faith, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For all congregations during this season of Advent, that they may be places free from grumbling and that all members would remain steadfast in God's Word as they patiently wait for the coming of the Savior, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For Mark Schroeder, our Synodical President; Douglas Engelbrecht our District President; and David Ardnt our Circuit Pastor; that the Lord would keep them faithful to the Holy Word and Sacraments and preserve them from the temptations of the evil one, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For those who hunger, those unemployed, those destitute, and those without homes, that the Lord would give them faith to cast their cares upon him, and that the Lord would give his people everywhere a ready willingness to share their blessings with those in need, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For all those suffering from sickness and disease, the elderly, and the lonely, that the Lord would give endurance to all and strengthen the weak with his baptismal promise that they belong to Him and that nothing can remove them from His love, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Together with all the saints, especially with all the faithful who now rest from their labors, we praise and honor Christ's glorious name. For a firm faith in his salvation and expectant patience for us all the days of our lives, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

M: 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.

C: Amen. (spoken)

BLESSING

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: (sung) Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN *Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes* Hymn 9:5