

2008 Midweek Advent Worship

Our Triune God Comes To Us

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.



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.



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

M: ... through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON

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

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. *Revelation 1:4,5*

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

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN

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*We exist to honor God
as we Grow in the Gospel
and Go with the Gospel*