

## Advent Evening Prayer + Week of Advent Four December 22, 2021 + Resurrection Lutheran Church

*Kindly share in the spoken responses at home with your device's microphone on mute in order to minimize background noises that will help maintain a worshipful atmosphere.*

### ***Dialogue:***

The Spirit and the church cry out:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

All those who await his appearance pray:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

The whole creation pleads:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

### ***Hymn of Light:***

“O Light Whose Splendor Thrills” (ELW # 563 – pray or sing along at home)

### ***Thanksgiving for Light:***

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you called light into being,  
and you set light in the sky  
to govern night and day.

In a pillar of cloud by day  
and a pillar of fire by night  
you led your people into freedom.

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ:

may your Word be a lamp to our feet  
and a light to our path;

for you are merciful,  
and you love your whole creation,  
and with all your creatures we give you glory,  
through your Son Jesus Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

***Reading:***

A reading from Micah.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised up above the hills. Peoples shall stream to it, <sup>2</sup>and many nations shall come and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>He shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; <sup>4</sup>but they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. <sup>5</sup>For all the peoples walk, each in the name of its god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. (4:1-5)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Reading:***

A reading from Ephesians

<sup>11</sup>So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision" —a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— <sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. <sup>15</sup>He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. <sup>17</sup>So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; <sup>18</sup>for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. (2:11-22)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*The reading of scripture is followed by silence for reflection.*

***Response to the Reading:***

***Reflections on Hopefulness by Grant Aldonas***

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.

**Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness.**

***Gospel Canticle, Song of Mary***

“My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord” (ELW # 573 – pray or sing along at home)

***Prayers:***

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us; for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all servants of the church, for this assembly,  
and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*A time of silence follows.*

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the  
communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life  
to you, through Christ our Lord.

**To you, O Lord.**

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,  
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good  
courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your  
love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Lord's Prayer:*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

***Blessing:***

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,  
keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**Amen.**

***Hymn:***

“Light One Candle To Watch for Messiah,” ELW 240 (*sing along at home as you desire, but kindly keep your device’s microphone on mute*)

**Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
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*Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Hymn #240:*

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