

Advent Lessons & Carols 2020

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Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.*

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Advent 1: Sunday, November 29, 2020

Officiant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

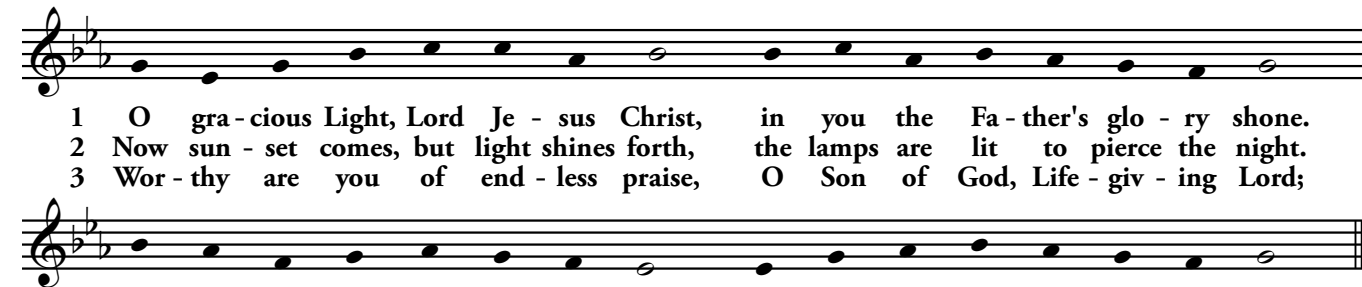
Prayer for Light

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**


Lighting of the Candle(s)

Phos Hilaron**

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM



1 O gra-cious Light, Lord Je-sus Christ, in you the Fa-ther's glo-ry shone.
2 Now sun-set comes, but light shines forth, the lamps are lit to pierce the night.
3 Wor-thy are you of end-less praise, O Son of God, Life-giv-ing Lord;



Im-mor-tal, ho-ly, blest is he, and blest are you, his ho-ly Son.
Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Spi-rit: God who dwells in the e-ter-nal light.
where-fore you are through all the earth and in the high-est heav'n a-dored.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah—Isaiah 11:1-9***

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Silence

Annunciation by Denise Levertov (part I)

We know the scene: the room, variously furnished, almost always a lectern, a book; always the tall lily.

Arrived on solemn grandeur of great wings, the angelic ambassador, standing or hovering, whom she acknowledges, a guest.

But we are told of meek obedience. No one mentions courage.

The engendering Spirit
did not enter her without consent.
God waited.

She was free
to accept or to refuse, choice
integral to humanness.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke—Luke 1:5-25

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el, who comes to set us free
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still his cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as pro - phet of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,
 and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham; from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.
 So have the pro - phets long de - clared that with his might - y arm
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease,
 God would turn back our en - e - mies and all that wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Prayers

Officiant
All

For our deepest and most holy longings we pray:
Renew us, O God.

For all who wander, who hunger, who thirst:
Renew us as people of service and compassion.

For this planet, our home:
Renew our will to be healers of creation.

For this and every nation:
Renew in all people the will for good and the longing for peace.

For those whom we hold in our hearts:

Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.

Bless these and all creation with your goodness,
and renew our trust in your love. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for life eternal. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ help you bear the fruits of holiness. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the One who creates, redeems, and sustains us, be upon you, and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Officiant The light of God is within and ahead.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Advent Window!

Now, tune into the Zoom window on your screen where tonight's All Souls Advent Window is being displayed. Kids (and adults), tell us what you see? What can you tell about how this household is waiting? What is your favorite part about tonight's window display?

O gracious Light: Words Greek, 3rd cent.; tr. F. Bland Tucker (1895-1984); para. of *O gracious Light*; © 1985 Church Pension Fund. *Blest be the God of Israel:* Words by Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944) © 1989 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All music and words reprinted with permission under OneLicense #A-706495, all rights reserved.

Advent 2: Sunday, December 6, 2020

Officiant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

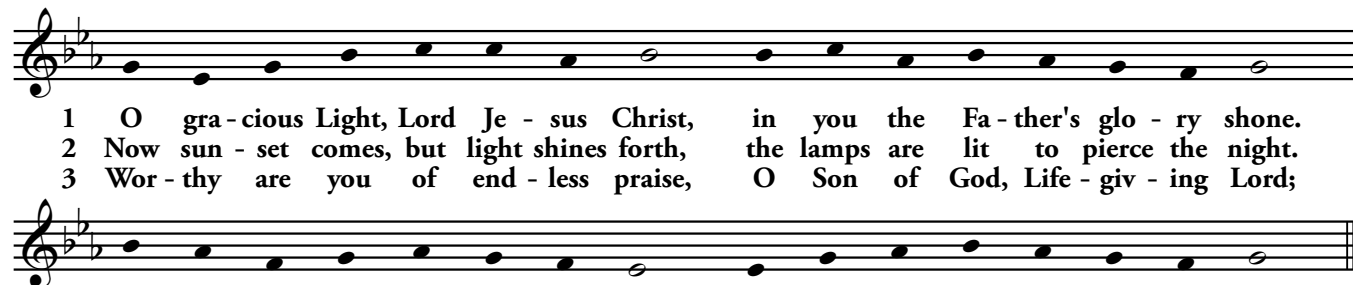
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Lighting of the Candle(s)

Phos Hilaron**

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Im - mor - tal, ho - ly, blest is he, and blest are you, his ho - ly Son.
Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
where-fore you are through all the earth and in the high - est heav'n a - dored.

Collect of the Day

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah—Isaiah 6:1-11***

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" And he said, "Go and say to this people: 'Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.' Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed." Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitants and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate;

Silence

Annunciation by Denise Levertov (part II)

Aren't there annunciations
of one sort or another
in most lives?

Some unwillingly
undertake great destinies,
enact them in sullen pride,
uncomprehending.
More often
those moments
when roads of light and storm
open from darkness in a man or woman,
are turned away from

in dread, in a wave of weakness, in despair
and with relief.

Ordinary lives continue.

God does not smite them.

But the gates close, the pathway vanishes.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke—Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say,

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Prayers

Officiant

In the beginning, it is dark, cool, and quiet, and we ask you:

Invite us into your presence, O Christ.

We do not know your works, Holy One, yet still we ask you:

Invite us into your presence, O Christ.

We look to the rising sun and trust that you

invite us into your presence, O Christ.

Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.

You are our Shepherd, and we need nothing more.

We rejoice in your presence with us in all of creation. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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,

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Blessing

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for life eternal. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ help you bear the fruits of holiness. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the One who creates, redeems, and sustains us, be upon you, and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Officiant

The light of God is within and ahead.

People

Thanks be to God.

Advent Window!

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Advent 3: Sunday, December 13, 2020

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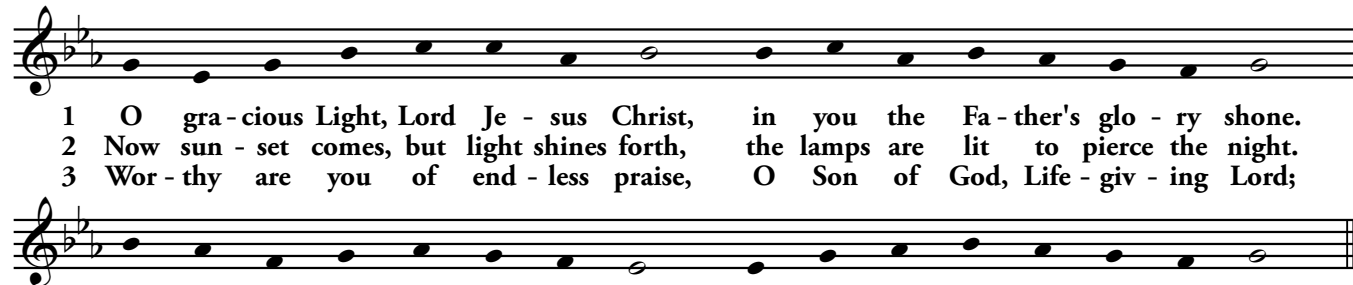
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Lighting of the Candle(s)

Phos Hilaron**

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM



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Praise Fa-ther, Son, and Spi-rit: God who dwells in the e-ter-nal light.
where-fore you are through all the earth and in the high-est heav'n a-dored.

Collect of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah—Isaiah 64:1-9a***

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Silence

Annunciation by Denise Levertov (part III)

She had been a child who played, ate, slept
like any other child—but unlike others,
wept only for pity, laughed
in joy not triumph.
Compassion and intelligence
fused in her, indivisible.

Called to a destiny more momentous
than any in all of Time,
she did not quail,
only asked
a simple, ‘How can this be?’
and gravely, courteously,
took to heart the angel’s reply,
the astounding ministry she was offered:

to bear in her womb
Infinite weight and lightness; to carry
in hidden, finite inwardness,
nine months of Eternity; to contain
in slender vase of being,
the sum of power—
in narrow flesh,
the sum of light.

Then bring to birth,
push out into air, a Man-child
needing, like any other,
milk and love—

but who was God.

This was the moment no one speaks of,
when she could still refuse.

A breath unbreathed,

Spirit,
suspended,

Waiting.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke—Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked

with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Carol, *Jesus Christ the apple tree*

PUER NOBIS

1 The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green,
 2 His beauty doth all things excel; by faith I know but ne'er can tell
 3 For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought;
 4 I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile;
 5 This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;

The trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ, the apple tree.
 the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ, the apple tree.
 I missed of all: but now I see 'tis found in Christ, the apple tree.
 under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ, the apple tree.
 which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

Prayers

Officiant

Holy One, as we prepare for the advent of Christ,

Give us your spirit of wisdom.

As we seek to embody your love in the world,

Give us your spirit of good counsel.

As we seek to be faithful,

Give us eyes to see beyond the obvious.

As we gather in this hour, we lift all in need before you.

Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.

May we be instruments of your peace on earth

as we accept the gifts of your Spirit.

The Lord's Prayer

**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,

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Now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for life eternal. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ help you bear the fruits of holiness. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the One who creates, redeems, and sustains us, be upon you, and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Officiant

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People

Thanks be to God.

Advent Window!

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Advent 4: Sunday, December 20, 2020

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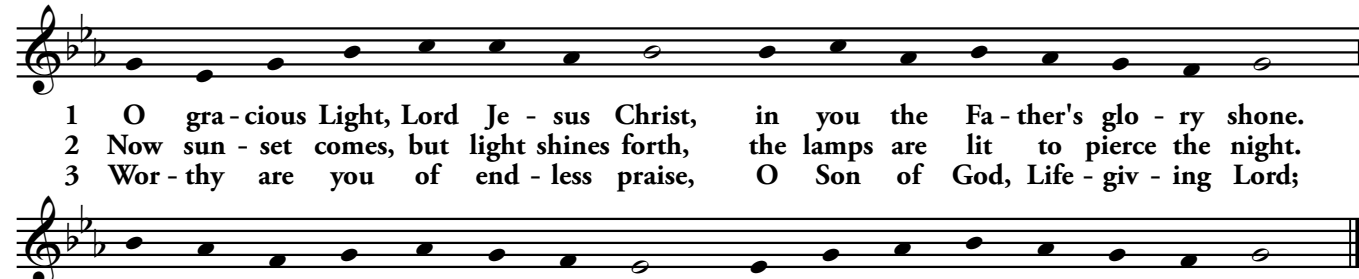
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Phos Hilaron**

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Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit: God who dwells in the e - ter - nal light.
where-fore you are through all the earth and in the high - est heav'n a - dored.

Collect of the Day

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah—Isaiah 40:1-11***

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Silence

Annunciation by Denise Levertov (part IV)

She did not cry, 'I cannot. I am not worthy,'
Nor, 'I have not the strength.'
She did not submit with gritted teeth,
raging, coerced.

Bravest of all humans,

consent illumined her.

The room filled with its light,
the lily glowed in it,

and the iridescent wings.

Consent,

courage unparalleled,

opened her utterly.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke—Luke 1:57-80

Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!____
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heav'n a - bove.____
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.____



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.____
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.____
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.____



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Prayers

Officiant

God of grace and hope:

All

Help us to move from fear to trust.

Your grace surrounds and fills us:

Remind us that you provide all we need.

Your healing love is offered to all:

Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.

May we be full of peace in our waiting

And full of joy in our praise of you. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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 for ever. Amen.

Blessing

May God the Father, who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son, give you grace to prepare for life eternal. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who comes to us as redeemer and judge, reveal to you the path from darkness to light. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ help you bear the fruits of holiness. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the One who creates, redeems, and sustains us, be upon you, and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Officiant

The light of God is within and ahead.

People

Thanks be to God.

Advent Window!

Now, tune into the Zoom window on your screen where tonight's All Souls Advent Window is being displayed. Kids (and adults), tell us what you see? What can you tell about how this household is waiting? What is your favorite part about tonight's window display?

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In Case You Want to Know More

***Opening Bidding**

This was taken from *The Book of Occasional Services 2018*. This was included in this year's Lesson & Carols as a reminder of where we are in the liturgical year, but also to remind us what this season is about.

****Phos Hilaron**

This is the traditional candle-lighting hymn. It is the earliest known Christian hymn recorded outside of the Bible that is still in use today. This hymn was originally written in Greek, but in English it translates as “O Gladsome Light” or “Hail Gladdening Light”. St. Basil the Great (329-379) spoke of the singing of the Phos Hilaron as a cherished tradition of the church, the hymn being already considered old in his day. It is sometimes referred to as the “Lamp-lighting Hymn”. (Wikipedia & Episcopal Church Online Dictionary)

*****Hebrew Texts**

Wondering why we're reading from Hebrew texts in this Advent booklet? We read them because these are the texts that Jesus and his followers knew. And because they are beautiful accounts of who these ancient people understood God to be. And so, when Jesus' followers wrote down the stories of Jesus, which were later canonized as Scripture (and eventually became what we know to be the Gospels) they wanted us (eventual readers of these stories) to understand that Jesus was the Messiah—the one promised in their Scriptures. Pretty exciting stuff :)