



ADVENT VESPERS

On these evenings of the Advent season we use Joyous Light Evening Prayer (Vespers). This service includes several places where we will pause for a meditative silence. There is no sermon; we use the silence as a time to reflect on the meaning of the reading.

Evening Prayer begins with the Service of Light. As the days approach their shortest at this time of year we express our thankfulness for light in this liturgy. We conclude with a sung litany - a prayer which is wide ranging in its subject matter.

Advent is the first season of the Church Year and is the time for preparation, not only for Christmas, but for the whole of the Church Year - indeed for the whole of the Christian life.

December 22, 2021
Accompanist

Wednesday of Advent
Diane Rauser

Joyous Light Evening Prayer

Stand as the candle enters and turn to face it.

(Silence for meditation follows each reading)

Luke 1: 39-55

Luke Miller

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Hymn: *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

ELW 251

"Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever.

For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.

Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;
hills, bow down in humble favor.

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.

Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.

For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.

Psalm 24

Sam Califf

¹The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;

**²for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.**

³Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?

**⁴Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.**

⁵They will receive blessing from the LORD,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.

**⁶Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Selah

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates!
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

that the King of glory may come in.

⁸Who is the King of glory?

**The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle.**

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates!

and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰Who is this King of glory?

The LORD of hosts,

he is the King of glory.

Selah