
THE ORDER OF VESPERS



DECEMBER 16, 2020

LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK - PAGE 229
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
REDLANDS, CA



MIDWEEK ADVENT 3
THE INCARNATION AND THE FUTURE



THE PSALMODY ~ *Psalm 98 (antiphon v.1)*



P: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

C: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

P: The Lord has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.

C: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

P: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, | all the earth;*
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

C: Sing praises to the Lord | with the lyre,*
with the lyre and the sound of | melody!

P: With trumpets and the sound | of the horn*
make a joyful noise before the | King, the Lord!

C: Let the sea roar, and all that | fills it,*
the world and those who | dwell in it!

P: Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together be- | fore the Lord,*
for he comes to | judge the earth.

C: He will judge the world with | righteousness,*
and the peoples with | equity.

All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.

THE OFFICE HYMN:

O JESUS, KING MOST WONDERFUL 554

THE READINGS FROM THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

THE FIRST READING: ROMANS 8:1-11

After the reading

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE SECOND READING: COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

After the reading

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSORY (LSB page 230 for Advent)

THE SERMON

THE MAGNIFICAT – SONG OF MARY

PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION HYMN:

NOW THE LIGHT HAS GONE AWAY 887



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PARTAKE THIS FRIDAY NIGHT

WE ARE GOING CHRISTMAS CAROLING ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 6:00PM



EVERYONE is INVITED!! We will meet at CTK to van pool to our Christmas caroling destinations to sing in front of the homes for some of our shut-ins around Redlands. Afterwards, we will return to CTK for pizza, cookies, and hot cocoa.

THE EVENTS of CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY

CHRISTMAS EVE at 7:00pm

- ⊗ The Procession of Light
- ⊗ Solemn High Divine Service
- ⊗ Holy Communion
- ⊗ Candlelight Ceremony



CHRISTMAS DAY at 9:00am

⊗ **THE DIVINE SERVICE**
for the
FESTIVAL of the NATIVITY
of **OUR LORD**

2020 Advent Theme

✘ THE PAST ✘ THE PRESENT ✘ THE FUTURE

God created time. “There was evening and there was morning, the first day” (Genesis 1:5). The Almighty is eternal and yet He created something which has a profound effect upon us. Time is a reality which surrounds us, a reality in which we exist and within which God Himself operates. Time and its passing are more than just the robotic elapse of moments – here for a brief “hello” followed by a cold and wretched “goodbye.” God uses time. God uses time to our advantage. That last statement is both profound and delightful. God uses time to our advantage by virtue of one supremely marvelous act: God entered time.

The Author and Craftsman of the structure of seconds and minutes and days, and weeks, and years entered the domain of the temporal by becoming as us, by being made man. The great “I AM” took up residence in the womb of the Virgin. Eternity brought His life into the domain of time and dwelled among us. The Son of God sanctified time by invading it, by being subject to it, by acting within it, by vesting it with His presence, by operating through it in order to bless us, save us, lay claim to us and bring us through it to our heavenly home. Time, for a Christian, is not empty. Time, for a Christian, contains the wonder of Christ’s once-for-all holy work.

Heraclitus, an ancient Greek philosopher, said: “You can never step into the same river twice.” His point, whether you accept it or not, is that the water, which is in essence the

river itself, is always moving and is never repeated. Time, whether you see it or not, has content; divine content. Time is a river that brings us Christ and His work. The time-river of Christ is always flowing over us and it is gloriously repetitive. Our moments and our days are lived within the construct that Christ Himself occupies. The Lord and His life have impacted the past, the present, and the future. The pivotal movement of this grace-laden occupation of time was when God became Man – what we call the “incarnation.”

This Advent we will assert the warmth of Christ’s presence within the structure of time and how that presence brings us the sweetest, the richest of gifts. Our lives as Christians are multi-faceted. The truth and substance of our faith inspires, provides direction, and breathes into us hope and joy and peace. Advent provides the necessary tonic for our souls. Now is precisely the time for our faith to take wing. The world is so confused. We are not. We are preparing to celebrate aright the most astounding event the world has ever known – the Birth of the Son of God. We prepare for Christmas by moving through Advent on our way to the sublime manger of the Infant King. Seeing the impact of the Incarnation on the past, the present, and the future will not only prepare us to celebrate Christmas with true joy but will enlarge our hearts. Advent lovingly calls to you – prepare the way, the Lord approaches.
