

GOD'S LOVE AT CHRISTMAS



ADVENT MIDWEEK VESPERS

DECEMBER 14, ST. PAUL

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS:

IMMANUEL - DECEMBER 21 @ 7PM

ST. PAUL'S - DECEMBER 24 @ 6PM

✠ IN NOMINE JESU CHRISTI ✠

ADVENT MIDWEEK 3 — VESPERS SERVICE
THE ORDER OF VESPERS, TLH P. 41

(There is no opening hymn for Vespers)

PSALM 50:1-15

I will de- | liver you*

and you shall glori- | fy Me.

Lord, you were favorable | to your land;*

you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your | people;*

you covered | all their sin.

You withdrew | all your wrath;*

you turned from your hot | anger.

Restore us again, O God of our sal- | vation,*

and put away your indignation | toward us!

Will you be angry with us for- | ever?*

Will you prolong your anger to all gener- | ations?

Will you not revive | us again,*

that your people may re- | joice in you?

Show us your steadfast love, | O Lord,*

and grant us your sal- | vation.

Let me hear what God the | Lord will speak,*

for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;

but let them not turn back to | folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*

that glory may dwell | in our land.

Steadfast love and faith- | fulness meet;*

righteousness and peace kiss each | other.

Faithfulness springs up | from the ground,*

and righteousness looks down | from the sky.

Yes, the Lord will give | what is good,*

and our land will yield its | increase.

Righteousness will go be- | fore him*

and make his foot- | steps a way.

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.

I will de- | liver you*

and you shall glori- | fy Me.

READINGS

OLD TESTAMENT ISAIAH 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

L But Thou, O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT LUKE 1:39-56

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his 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; ⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

L But Thou, O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

L In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

SERMON HYMN

“Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”

(TLH #61)

SERMON “God’s Saving Love Speaks Comfort and Joy” Isaiah 40:1-11

FOR THE MAGNIFICAT WE WILL SUBSTITUTE BY SINGING

“My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord” (TLH #275)

KYRIE ~ LORD’S PRAYER ~ PRAYERS

(TLH p. 44)

COLLECT OF THE DAY

L Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE ~ BENEDICTION (TLH p. 45)

CLOSING HYMN

“Jesus, Thy Church with Longing Eyes”

(TLH #64)

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠