

The Song of Elizabeth

331 The Advent of Our King

- 1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.
- 2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.
- 3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.
- 5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.
- D 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.
Text: Public domain

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

Psalm 108:1–6

- P My heart is steadfast, O God! I will sing and make melody with all my being!
C **Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!**
- P I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the peoples; I will sing praises to You among the nations.
C **For Your steadfast love is great above the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**
- P Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let Your glory be over all the earth!
C **That Your beloved ones may be delivered, give salvation by Your right hand and answer me!**

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 124:8

- P Our help is in the name of the LORD,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P In this season of penitence and reflection, let us think of our unworthiness; confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed; and ask for His merciful forgiveness. (*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*)
C **Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.**
- P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive

you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

P The text of the next hymn, “When All the World Was Cursed,” was written by Johann Olearius, a German hymn and devotion writer who lived in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Originally written for June 24, the day designated for The Nativity of John the Baptist, it is an appropriate Advent hymn as well. As the son born late in life to Elizabeth and Zechariah, John had a singular calling to prepare the way for Jesus, the Messiah. His message was filled not only with a call to repentance but also, as the hymn reminds us, with “words of consolation” that indeed God’s plan of salvation was soon to be realized in Jesus, the Savior, to whom John zealously pointed. Celebrating the Advent unfolding of God’s gracious plan, together we sing the hymn.

346 When All the World Was Cursed



1 When all the world was cursed By Mo-ses' con-dem-na-tion,
2 Be-fore he yet was born, He leaped in joy-ful meet-ing,
3 Be-hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres-sion,
4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we re-ceive, re-joic-ing,



Saint John the Bap-tist came With words of con-so-la-tion.
Con-fess-ing Him as Lord Whose moth-er he was greet-ing,
Whose sac-ri-fice re-moves The dev-il's dread op-pres-sion.
The word pro-claimed by John, Our true re-pen-tance voic-ing,



With true fore-run-ner's zeal The great-er One he named,
By Jor-dan's roll-ing stream, A new E-li-jah bold,
Be-hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a-way our sin,
That glad-ly we may walk Up-on our Sav-ior's way



And Him, as yet un-known, As Sav-ior he pro-claimed.
He tes-ti-fied of Him Of whom the proph-ets told:
Who for our peace and joy Will full a-tone-ment win.
Un-til we live with Him In His e-ter-nal day.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.
Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701
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Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

O Jesus, Sun of Righteousness, may Your divine glory enlighten us with the brightness of Your coming. Teach us Your ways, O Lord, that we may grow in true wisdom and may reflect Your glory into our darkened world until that day when, by Your grace, we come to the glorious inheritance that You have prepared for those who love You. In Your blessed name we pray.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

2 Chronicles 29:25–30

²⁵And he stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals, harps, and lyres, according to the commandment of David and of Gad the king’s seer and of Nathan the prophet, for the commandment was from the LORD through his prophets. ²⁶The Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

²⁷Then Hezekiah commanded that the burnt offering be offered on the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the

song to the LORD began also, and the trumpets, accompanied by the instruments of David king of Israel. ²⁸The whole assembly worshipped, and the singers sang and the trumpeters sounded. All this continued until the burnt offering was finished. ²⁹When the offering was finished, the king and all who were present with him bowed themselves and worshipped. ³⁰And Hezekiah the king and the officials commanded the Levites to sing praises to the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. And they sang praises with gladness, and they bowed down and worshipped.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29

I-Left Side, II- Right Side

P Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

C **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

! *The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.*

@ *The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.*

! *The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.*

@ *The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.*

! *The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.*

@ *The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in His temple all cry, "Glory!"*

P The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.

C **May the LORD give strength to His people! May the LORD bless His people with peace!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Epistle

1 Peter 4:7–11

⁷The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. ⁸Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: ¹¹whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

sts. 1–2

1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav'n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!

2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–45

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I’ve come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand’ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I’m constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand’ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
How I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom’d soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–90, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon

803 Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

1 Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee,

Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

- 2 All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

- D 3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt.
Text: Public domain

Offering

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

sts. 13–15

- 13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.
- 14 My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:
- 15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

The Litany

- P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P O Christ,
C **hear us.**
P God the Father in heaven,
C **have mercy.**
P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy.**
P God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**

P Be gracious to us.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**
P Be gracious to us.
C **Help us, good Lord.**
P From all sin, from all error, from all evil;
From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death;
From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;
From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:
C **Good Lord, deliver us.**
P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
C **Help us, good Lord.**
P In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
C **Help us, good Lord.**
P We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, O Lord.**
P To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and ministers of Your church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your wholesome Word and to sustain them in holy living;
To put an end to all schisms and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived;
To beat down Satan under our feet; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest; and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
P To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
P To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need;
To direct and defend our president and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people;
To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel;
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;
To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
P To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
C **we implore You to hear us.**
P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy.**
P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy.**
P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **grant us Your peace.**
P O Christ,
C **hear us.**
P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
P O Lord,
C **have mercy. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C **Our Father who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Closing Collect

- P Let us pray.
Almighty God, Judge and King, You sent John the Baptist to prepare the way for Your coming. Come, Lord Jesus, with Your grace, and fill us with Your Holy Spirit. Inhabit our lives and our dreams so that we may live as Your people in the world; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Benediction (Aaronic)

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” Refrain
- ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”
- 2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the_incarinate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! Refrain
- 3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. Refrain

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