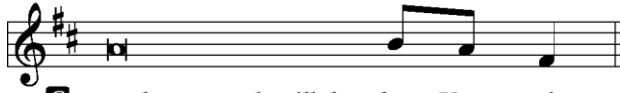


ADVENT MIDWEEK III  
December 18, 2024  
"Returned!"

THE OPENING VERSES

(please stand)

P: O Lord, open my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



*Advent:* Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

THE PSALM Psalm 126 (ESV)

P: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

**C: we were like those who dream.**

P: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

**C: and our tongue with shouts of joy;**

P: then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

**C: The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.**

P: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!

**C: Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!**

P: He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

**C: shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.**

**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.**

(please be seated)

## THE HYMN #333 "Once He Came in Blessing"



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -  
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He  
3 Soon will come that hour ——— When with might - y  
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,  
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,  
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor  
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will  
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful  
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.  
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.  
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

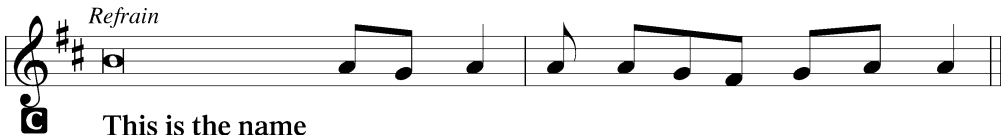
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## THE ADVENT GOSPEL Luke 1:57-80

### THE RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

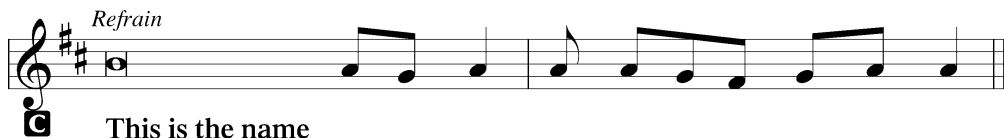
P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,  
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.



This is the name  
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

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

*Refrain*



This is the name  
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

*Refrain*



This is the name  
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

**THE SERMON** “Returned!” Text: Psalm 126

**THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS**

**THE HYMN #934** “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”

(A hymn version of the Virgin Mary’s song of praise, known as “The Magnificat”)



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it  
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -  
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters  
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -  
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like  
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -  
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.  
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.  
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.  
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

*(please stand)*

## THE PRAYERS

### The Kyrie



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

### The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

### The Collects

**P:** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*(The Prayers continue on the next page)*

**P:** Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father for all Your benefits. Bless us, and all the gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, including the food by which You give us our daily bread, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give Your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend Your sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest Your weary ones. Bless Your dying ones. Soothe Your suffering ones. Have mercy on Your afflicted ones. Shield Your joyful ones. And all for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## THE BENEDICAMUS

**P:** Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## THE BENEDICTION

P: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## THE CLOSING HYMN #883 "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"



1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night For all the  
2 For - give me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, The ill that  
3 Teach me to live that I may dread The grave as  
4 Oh, may my soul in Thee re - pose, And may sweet



bles - ings of the light. Keep me, O keep me,  
I this day have done, That with the world, my -  
lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die that  
sleep mine eye - lids close, Sleep that shall me more



King of kings, Be - neath Thine own al - might - y wings.  
self, and Thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.  
so I may Rise glo - rious at the awe - full day.  
vig - 'rous make To serve my God when I a - wake!

**5 When in the night I sleepless lie,  
My soul with heav'nly thoughts supply;  
Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,  
No pow'rs of darkness me molest.**

**△6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

*Please join us downstairs for supper following our dismissal.*

*A free will offering will be received.*

### Acknowledgments

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