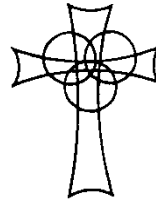




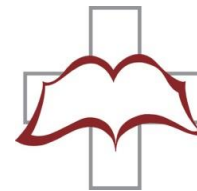
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*A Member Congregation of  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

**Midweek Devotions and Bible Study  
Wednesday in the First Week of Advent  
December 2, 2020**



**Service of the Word in the Season of Advent**

*✠ In the Name of Jesus! ✠*

The Opening Versicles:

*Psalms 51:15 and 70:1; Isaiah 30:27; Psalm 72:19*

- P** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.
- P** Behold, the Name of the Lord comes from afar;  
**C** May the whole earth be filled with His glory!
- C** 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.  
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

- P** <sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.
- C** <sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**
- P** <sup>3</sup>You return man to dust  
and say, “Return, O children of man!”
- C** <sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight  
are but as yesterday when it is past,  
or as a watch in the night.**
- P** <sup>5</sup>You sweep them away as with a flood;  
they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning:
- C** <sup>6</sup>**in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.**
- P** <sup>9</sup>For all our days pass away under your wrath;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- C** <sup>10</sup>**The years of our life are seventy,  
or even by reason of strength eighty;  
yet their span is but toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.**
- P** <sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days  
that we may get a heart of wisdom.
- C** <sup>14</sup>**Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**
- C** **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.**

<sup>1</sup>Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near of which you will say, “I have no pleasure in them”; <sup>2</sup>before the sun and the light and the moon and the stars are darkened and the clouds return after the rain, <sup>3</sup>in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed, <sup>4</sup>and the doors on the street are shut—when the sound of the grinding is low, and one rises up at the sound of a bird, and all the daughters of song are brought low—<sup>5</sup>they are afraid also of what is high, and terrors are in the way; the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper drags itself along, and desire fails, because man is going to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets—<sup>6</sup>before the silver cord is snapped, or the golden bowl is broken, or the pitcher is shattered at the fountain, or the wheel broken at

the cistern, <sup>7</sup>and the dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. <sup>8</sup>Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; all is vanity.

<sup>9</sup>Besides being wise, the Preacher also taught the people knowledge, weighing and studying and arranging many proverbs with great care. <sup>10</sup>The Preacher sought to find words of delight, and uprightly he wrote words of truth.

<sup>11</sup>The words of the wise are like goads, and like nails firmly fixed are the collected sayings; they are given by one Shepherd. <sup>12</sup>My son, beware of anything beyond these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

<sup>13</sup>The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. <sup>14</sup>For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

The Evening Office Hymn for Advent

*Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 351*

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

- 1 Creator of the stars of night,  
Thy people’s everlasting Light:  
O Christ, Redeemer, save us all  
And hear Thy servants when they call.**
- 2 Thou, grieving that the ancient curse  
Should doom to death a universe,  
Hast found the healing, full of grace,  
To cure and save our ruined race.**
- 3 Thou cam’st the Bridegroom of the bride,  
As drew the world to eventide,  
The spotless Victim all divine  
Proceeding from a virgin shrine.**
- 4 At whose dread name, majestic now,  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
All things celestial Thee shall own,  
And things terrestrial, Lord alone.**
- 5 O Thou, whose coming is with dread  
To judge the living and the dead,  
Preserve us from the ancient foe  
While still we dwell on earth below.**
- △ 6 To God the Father and the Son  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be  
From age to age eternally. Amen.**

*Text: Public domain*

The Scripture Study for the Day:

1. Why does Solomon advise his hearers to “Remember your Creator in the days of your youth” Why is this important in the light of what he describes in verses 1-7?
2. How does our faith in Christ help us as we age and draw closer to our end? See what Paul says about this in 2 Corinthians 4:7-12.
3. What does Solomon tell us his purpose was in writing the Book of Ecclesiastes? (verses 9-10)
4. In what two ways are the God-given words of Ecclesiastes intended to help us? (verses 11-12a)
5. What is Solomon speaking of when he says, “Much study is wearisome”? (verse 12b)
6. In Solomon’s closing words, what are we to learn and know about our life? (verses 13-14)

The Prayers:

- P** Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.
- P** That God may bring in His kingdom with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That God may establish among the nations His scepter of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize Him in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights in and for the world, let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us commend the world, which Christ will judge, to the mercy and protection of God.

*Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.*

The Lord's Prayer:

- P** Awaiting His coming in glory, let us pray with confidence as our Savior Christ has taught us:  
**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.**

The Collect of the Day:

- P** Let us pray.  
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

The Collect for Peace:

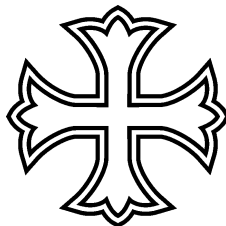
- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;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

The Closing Prayer:

- P** Together we pray:
- C** **Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Benediction:

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** **Amen.**



If you were unable to send questions to Pastor Schiebel via messaging during the Facebook Live video, you can email your questions to him at [trinity-elc-pastor@verizon.net](mailto:trinity-elc-pastor@verizon.net).

## **Acknowledgments**

Brief Service of the Word from Lutheran Service Book Agenda and from Common Worship: Daily Prayer.

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