



*P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✕, and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.*

**THE CONFESSION OF SINS** *P: Dearly beloved! We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.*

**C: Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy Law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Your holy Name.**

**THE ABSOLUTION**

*P: The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

**OPENING HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" ELH 125 3 verses BR**

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, - "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, - God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all you nations rise, - Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th' angelic host proclaim, - "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
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 th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with us to dwell, - Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, - "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. Hail, the heav'nly 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 we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, - Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, - "Glory to the newborn King!"
4. Come, Desire of nations, come, - Fix in us Thy humble home;  
Oh, to all Thyself impart, - Formed in each believing heart!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, - "Glory to the new-born King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, -God and sinners reconciled!"  
Hark! the herald angels sing, - "Glory to the new-born King!"

those who fear him in ev'ry generation.

He has shown the strength of His Arm; He has scattered the

proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty

from their thrones and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich

he has sent away empty. He has come to the

help of His servant Israel, for He has remembered His

promise of mercy, the promise made to our fathers,

to Abraham, and to His children forever. Amen

**The VERSICLES**

*ELH, p.120*

*P: ♪ O Lord, open my lips. C: ♪ And my mouth will show forth Your praise.*

*P: ♪ Make haste, O God, to deliver me. C: ♪ Make haste to help me, O Lord.*

**The GLORIA PATRI**

**C: ♪ Glory be to the Father, and to the**

**Son, and- to- the Holy Ghost. - As it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be, for-ev-er-more. - A-men. Al-le-lu—ia!**

**LECTION: SCRIPTURE LESSONS for ADVENT-1 “JESUS OF EGYPT”**

**OLD TESTAMENT Hosea 11:1-4** “When Israel was a child, I loved him...”

**GOSPEL Matthew 2: 13-15** “When they [Magi] had gone, an angel of...”

**RESPONSORY *P: ♪ O Lord, have mercy upon us. C: ♪ Thanks be to You, O Lord!***

**HYMN: “O How Shall I Receive Thee” *ELH #94 Sing verses 3, 4 & 5***

- 3. What hast Thou left ungranted - To give me glad relief?  
When soul and body panted - In utmost depth of grief.  
In deepest degradation, - Devoid of joy and peace,  
Then, Thou, my soul’s Salvation, - Didst come to bring release.
- 4. I lay in fetters, groaning, - Thou com’st to set me free;  
I stood, my shame bemoaning, - Thou com’st to honor me;  
A glory Thou dost give me, - A treasure safe on high,  
That will not fail or leave me - As earthly riches fly.
- 5. Naught, naught, dear Lord, could move Thee, - To leave Thy rightful place  
Save love, for which I love Thee; - A love that could embrace  
A world where sorrow dwelleth, - Which sin and suff’ring fill,  
More than the tongue e’er telleth, - Yet Thou couldst love it still!

**THIRD HYMN “From Heaven Above” *ELH #123/4 Sing verses 1, 2, 13, 15***

- 1. "From heaven above to earth I come - To bear good news to every home;  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, - Whereof I now will say and sing:  
2. To you this night is born a child - Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This little child, of lowly birth, - Shall be the joy of all the earth.”  
13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, - Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,  
Within my heart, that it may be - A quiet chamber kept for Thee.
- 15. Glory to God in highest heaven, - Who unto us His Son hath given!  
While angels sing with pious mirth - A glad new year to all the earth.

**The VERSICLE *P: ♪ Let my prayers rise before you as incense:***

**C: ♪ And the lifting up of my hands - As the ev’ning sacrifice.**

**The MAGNIFICAT (*Song of Mary*) words and music at end of bulletin →**

**KYRIE ELEISON (*Lord Have Mercy*) C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. -  
Christ, have mercy upon us. - Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**The LORD’S PRAYER *All pray together (chant tone on p.125)***

**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. A- -men.

**The (Evening) COLLECT (*Pastor prays, Congregation Amen*) C: ♪ A- -men.**

**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: ♪ A- -men.***

**CLOSING HYMN *Now Rest Beneath Night’s Shadow ELH #569, V.1,5,6***

- 1. Now rest beneath night's shadow - The woodland, field, and meadow,  
The world in slumber lies; - But Thou, my heart, awake thee,  
To prayer and song betake thee; - Let praise to thy Creator rise.
- 5. Lord Jesus, who dost love me, - Oh, spread Thy wings above me  
And shield me from alarm! - Though evil would assail me,  
Thy mercy will not fail me: - I rest in Thy protecting arm.
- 6. My loved ones, rest securely, - For God this night will surely  
From peril guard your heads. - Sweet slumbers may He send you  
And bid His hosts attend you - And through the night watch o'er your beds.

**Silent Prayer (*Candles out.*) You may be seated. *FELLOWSHIP***

♪ “Magnificat” (Song of Mary) ♪ Please sing along! ♪

**C: ♪ My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; My spirit re-**

**joices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor**

**on his lowly servant. From this day all generations**

**will call me blessed. The Almighty has done great**

**things for me, and holy is His Name. He has mercy on**

**ADVENT-2 MIDWEEK "O HOW SHALL I RECEIVE THEE" 12.11.13 OS**

Grace to you and Peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus.

**3. What hast Thou left ungranted - To give me glad relief?  
When soul and body panted - In utmost depth of grief.  
In deepest degradation, - Devoid of joy and peace,  
Then, Thou, my soul's Salvation, - Didst come to bring release.**

**PRAYER:** Arise, Sun of Righteousness, with healing in Your wings, that the nations sitting in darkness and the shadow of death may behold Your great light, and all flesh see the salvation of our God. O true Light of the world, shine in our hearts and give us the knowledge of the glory of God revealed in humility, that we may be changed into the same image, and fashioned into the likeness of Your own glorious lowliness. Amen.

**FELLOW REDEEMED:** The **third stanza** of our Advent hymn "O How Shall I Receive Thee" sings of our **Lord's great release of the sinner** through Grace.

This release, this Grace that has been given, is in fact **your possession right now**. The critical event which set the stage for this giving of Grace we are preparing to commemorate. Advent is the first part of the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus. Your Lord loved you so much even while you were in your sin that He emptied Himself of the glory and honor which is naturally His and lowered Himself from the heights of heaven to be made man. Jesus was born in the humblest circumstance for your sake. He came in humility to get Himself under the burden of sin and sentence of death which crushes the life out of you, so that He might then raise that hideous burden off of you, and onto Himself. In Jesus' perfect obedience to the Law He perfectly placed Himself into your position, and loving you, died to pay the price of your penalty in sin. In Advent we remember this, as we prepare for Christmas.

But we're **not just commemorating this glorious historical fact** of Jesus' birth. We are also looking forward in joyous anticipation of what is yet to be. The fact of the matter is that you have been granted forgiveness full, free, and unconditional in Christ Jesus, yet your daily condition in this world remains as it has always been. Everything is changed, Jesus is yours, and you are going to live forever with Him; but at the same time tears are not in short supply, and your life continues to be a daily struggle. You are in Christ, and the Gospel is yours. Even so, you are in advent, you are in anticipation of what is yet to be.

*"What hast Thou left ungranted To give me glad relief? When soul and body panted In utmost depth of grief. In deepest degradation, Devoid of joy and peace..."* **Yes, Christ has given you everything**, and you live in hope. Nevertheless you still look forward to the promised 'glad

relief.' Your soul and body, redeemed though you are, still is panting, the grief you endure at times is quite literally breathtaking, and the limits of endurance are pressed. You are made to suffer indignities in small ways, and sometimes not so small, you know what 'deepest degradation' feels like all too well. You have been granted the grace of Jesus, and nevertheless you are better acquainted with what it feels like to be 'devoid of joy and peace.' You live by grace the redeemed child of God for Jesus' sake, yet you know the bitterness of sin and death in your body and soul daily. You are still in advent... your life is a life too well acquainted with sorrow, and yet you do not live as those who have no hope. You live in advent, in anticipation of what has already been given, which by Grace is your possession, but have not yet seen face to face.

**Forgiveness, Life, Salvation all are yours.** Jesus has fully paid the penalty of your sin, and you are freed from eternal death. Death itself has become the portal to eternal life. You are baptized, and so you have entered with Jesus into His life, into His death, and as He has risen, and as what goes for Jesus now by Grace goes for you, you are waiting still for your resurrection. Now, and not yet, you live in advent, possession, and yet not fully obtaining what Christ has given, this is how it is for you. You are a child of Paradise, for as Jesus humbled Himself, so He is with you, and is taking you from this life of dying to raise you into His own exaltation. You live in anticipation, having already obtained the promise, and even through tear-stained eyes looking to Him in whom you confidently may already sing that "Thou, my soul's Salvation, Didst come to bring release."

Here is your life. Grace is for you now, and even so, not yet. But hear the words which follow in the next stanza of our hymn:

**4. "I lay in fetters groaning, - You come to set me free;  
I stood, my shame bemoaning, - You come to honor me;  
A glory You did give me, - A treasure safe on high,  
That will not fail or leave me - As earthly riches fly."**

**This is your advent hope**, the well-grounded anticipation in which you daily already live. Jesus in fact was born, has lived for you, has died in your place, does keep you by His good Gifts and Spirit now, and soon, so soon, that this present sadness shall be revealed as a fleeting thing not worthy of much remembrance, as eternal joys await you. Jesus loves you. You are forgiven. You are in His life, death, and resurrection made alive. You are going to live forever in such life as your heart cannot yet but dream. Live in advent, dear Christian, for Christ has come for you, and is coming soon to receive you Home. Live hardy being able to stand it in a joyous anticipation of what is yet to be. **IJ'N, Amen.**

**SDG**