



## I. The Service of Vespers ELH p.120



**12/10 MIDWEEK ADVENT-2 WORSHIP 4:30pm. INVOCATION** (Please *rise*)

*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 (4 verses)

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 Throne on High, - 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;  
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring Seed, - Bruise in us the serpent's head.  
Adam's likeness, Lord efface; - Print Thine Image in its place;  
O to all Thyself impart, - Formed in- each believing heart.  
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-1W** *“JESUS IS OUR ELISHA.”***OLD TESTAMENT** 2 Kings 6:1-7 Elisha recovers (axe) what was lost in water.**NEW TESTAMENT** Mark 1:9-11 Jesus recovers (us) what was lost *through* water.**RESPONSORY** *P: ♪ O Lord, have mercy upon us. C: ♪ Thanks be to You, O Lord!***HYMN: “God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It”** *ELH #246 Sing verses 1, 2 & 3*

1. God’s own child, I gladly say it: I am Baptized into Christ!  
 He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full Redemption price.  
 Do I need earth’s treasures many? I have one worth more than any  
 That brought me Salvation free, Lasting to eternity!

2. Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am Baptized into Christ!  
 I have comfort even stronger: Jesus’ cleansing Sacrifice.  
 Should a guilty conscience seize me, Since my Baptism did release me  
 In a dear forgiving Flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus’ Blood?

3. Satan, hear this proclamation: I am Baptized into Christ!  
 Drop your ugly accusation; I am not so soon enticed.  
 Now that to the Font I’ve traveled, All your might has come unraveled,  
 And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!

**THIRD HYMN “Death, you cannot end...”** *ELH#246 continued, verses 4 & 5*

4. Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am Baptized into Christ!  
 When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit Paradise!  
 Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith’s assurance brightly flashes:  
 Baptism has the strength divine To make Life Immortal mine.

5. There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!  
 Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I’ll sleep secure.  
 Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:  
 I AM BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST; I’M A CHILD OF PARADISE!

**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, ... forever and ever. C: ♪ 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 (6 verses)*

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.
2. The radiant sun hath vanished, - His golden rays are banished  
 By night, the foe of day; - But Christ, the Sun of gladness,  
 Dispelling all my sadness, - Within my heart holds constant sway.
3. The rule of day is over - And shining jewels cover  
 The heaven's boundless blue. - Thus I shall shine in heaven,  
 Where crowns of gold are given - To all who faithful prove and true.
4. To rest my body hasteth, - Aside its garments casteth,  
 Types of mortality; - These I put off and ponder  
 How Christ will give me yonder - A robe of glorious majesty.
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(W) MIDWEEK “JESUS IS OUR ELISHA. PART 2” 12.10.14 OSL**  
PRAYER Everlasting God, Who, by the mouths of Your prophets and saints of old, proclaimed the advent of Your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Desire of all nations, the Hope of Israel, the Redeemer of the world: Lead us to repent of all our sins, and so to humble ourselves that we may be prepared to receive Him with gladness and to join in singing: Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord! Amen.

**Text:** (Wk1) **2 Kings 5:9-14;** (Wk2) **2 Kings 6:1-7;** (Wk3) **2 Kings 13:20-21**

OVERALL THEME: **JESUS IS OUR ELISHA**

- I. Jesus **Brings Cleansing for All Our Sins** (midWeek 1)
- II. **Jesus Recovers What Was Lost Through Water** <- !TODAY! MW2
- III. **Jesus Revives our Souls When We Touch Him in His Death** (W3)

Fellow redeemed: On a certain day, long ago, two men walking together came to the Jordan River. One of them - the older one (Elijah), took his cloak off. He rolled it up, and struck the water with it. Right in front of them, the water divided to the right and to the left, and the two men walked across on dry ground. It was after they passed through the water that the older one, **Elijah**, said to the younger, **Elisha**, (as we heard in our meditation last Wednesday) *“What can I do for you before I am taken away from you?”* Elisha answered, “Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me.” Elijah answered: “If you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours.”

Elisha **was** there when the chariot and horses of fire came from heaven. Elisha saw Elijah taken away in the whirlwind. He saw Elijah's cloak fall from him. **Elisha tore his own clothes with grief over losing his spiritual father and friend.** But then he took up the cloak Elijah left behind.

Elisha turned and went back... when he came to the river, he took this cloak in his hand. He asked: *“Where now is the LORD, the God of **Elijah**?”* Now that Elijah is gone, **Will God still be with us(?)** and will there be “a way through the water”?

Our **Elijah, St. John the Baptist**, has come and gone. We still treasure and benefit from his strong message (from his pointing finger). He came preaching a Baptism of Repentance for the remission of sins. Now that he's come and gone, **where will we find the God who sent him?** Will we find a way opened for us through the water?

In **2 Kings 2**, Elisha struck the water with that cloak. Again, a way through the water was opened up. In the same way, even though our Elijah, John, has come and gone, we have Someone greater. **Jesus is our Elisha** Who **saves** what was lost (not *in water* but) **through** water.

In **2 Kings 6**, the company of the prophets said to Elisha, *“We meet with you in a place too small for us.”* They said, *“Let's go to the*

*Jordan... let us build a place there for us to live.”* They said to Elisha, *“You come with us.”* And he (Elisha) said, *“I will.”*

They came to the Jordan. **They began to cut down trees.** But as one of them was cutting down a tree by the water, the **head of his axe came off and fell in.** He cried out, *“It was borrowed!”* You and I would probably not think much of losing a tool (or maybe we would!). Even if we lost one that belonged to someone else, we'd be sorry, then go buy another one to replace it. But an axe head made of iron, like this one, was precious in those days. The prophets were poor. They couldn't afford to replace it. The man who lost it would have to work off its value as a bondservant. He “lost his life into slavery,” when that iron axe head came off and disappeared into the cold murky darkness of the water.

(It's sad that) We think little of **our condition in sin.** We think little of our transgressions with our **hands, mouths and minds.** We do wrong, and we think (**we can**) make it right somehow. We don't realize what a fearful thing it is. **Sin is being lost. Sin is cold darkness.** Sin means our lives were forfeit in slavery, and we would never be seen or heard from again. (And worst) Sin means **we are lost to God** - too much for us to pay back; too much for us to ransom. **Psalm 49.8:** *“The ransom for a life is costly, no payment is ever enough.”*

Thank God, **that's just when our Elisha comes.** In **2 Kings**, the man of God asked, *“Where did it fall?”* They showed him the place. **Elisha** cut for himself **a stick, a piece of wood.** **What good** could that possibly do?! But he threw the wood at the place where the axe head was lost. **The iron axe head floated to the top.** He said to the man, *“Lift it out.”* And the other prophet reached out his hand and drew it out of the water.

It was more than just a worldly axe head of iron, more than just earthly life that we had lost - we were lost forever and ever. But **Our Elisha came to us where we were**, lost in cold darkness, under the condemnation of God. Our Elisha, Jesus the Lord **came with wood.** He came to our death and condemnation with the wood of the **Cross.** There in His Body took all the guilt and punishment. With His Blood and death He took away all our sins. In Him, we are forgiven. Even though it doesn't seem like it should be so, **we who should sink and be lost forever float easily up to the top**, are drawn out of the water found and restored, washed clean of sin in the water mingled with the Blood of Jesus. We're rescued and given new life.

What joy we have, as we get closer to celebrating the birth of our Elisha - Jesus our Lord, Who came seeking what was lost, and saves us, drawing us out of the **water of Holy Baptism in His Name!**  
**IJ'N, Amen. SDG**

**OLD TESTAMENT 2 Kings 6:1-7** Elisha recovers (axe) that was lost in water.

**NIV 2 Kings 6:1** The company of the prophets said to Elisha, "Look, the place where we meet with you is too small for us. 2 Let us go to the Jordan, where each of us can get a pole; and let us build a place there for us to live." And he said, "Go." 3 Then one of them said, "Won't you please come with your servants?" "I will," Elisha replied. 4 And he went with them. They went to the Jordan and began to cut down trees. 5 As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axhead fell into the water. "Oh, my lord," he cried out, "it was borrowed!" 6 The man of God asked, "Where did it fall?" When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float. 7 "Lift it out," he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it.



Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – 2 Kings 6:1-7  
Elisha makes an axehead float.

Image courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University  
<http://www.pitts.emory.edu/dia/detail.cfm?ID=1684>

**LECTION: SCRIPTURE LESSONS for ADVENT-2W "Jesus Is Our Elisha."**

**NEW TESTAMENT Mark 1:9-11** Jesus recovers what was lost *through* water.

**NIV Mark 1:9** At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, He saw Heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on Him like a Dove. 11 And a Voice came from Heaven: "You are My Son, Whom I love; with You I am well pleased."



Woodcut illustration from a 1695 Bible – Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3  
Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. The Holy Spirit descends upon him as a Dove, and a Voice from Heaven proclaims His Identity.

Image courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University  
<http://www.pitts.emory.edu/dia/detail.cfm?ID=2591>