

Advent Service, December II, 2024 — 3pm

"Yet in Thy Dark Streets Shineth..." A Service for Advent

ååNazarethåå

Advent Approach

Response from Matthew 4, Luke 1

Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here. His coming rends the dark of night where shines the everlasting Light. God send the Light divine in our dark streets to shine!

- P: Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, Galilee of the Gentiles:
- C: The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. On those who live in the dark land of death, the light will dawn.
- P: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,
- C: to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.
- P: The virgin's name was Mary.
- C: The angel came to her and said, "Fear not, Mary, for you have found favor with God.
- P: Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.
- C: He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High,
- P: and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.
- C: He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the Savior is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King in mercy comes!
As once to Nazareth was sent fulfillment of the covenant,
God send the Light divine in our dark streets to shine!

- P: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, so that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you in all holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

BBReadings BB

Old Testament Reading

Judges 13:2-7

Samson's birth foretold: "He will be a Nazirite."

Responsive Psalm

from Psalm 128

- P: Happy are those who obey the Lord, who live by his commands.
- C: You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

- P: Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in your home. Your children will be like olive shoots around your table.
- C: Thus shall they be blessed who fear the Lord.
- P: May the Lord bless you from Zion! May you see Jerusalem prosper all the days of your life!
- C: May you live to see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

Holy Gospel John 1:40-46

"We have found the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth!"

Theme Hymn O Little Town

O city of Jerusalem, thou royal citadel
Where pilgrims throng with festal song the praise of God to tell:
Here, at God's time appointed, the Lamb of sacrifice,
The heav'nly King whose birth we sing, will pay redemption's price.

å å Homily å å

Canticle

Zechariah's Mary's Magnificat

Melody: Melita

With all my heart my Lord I praise, to God my Savior anthems raise. He sees his servants, bends to bless, and sanctifies their lowliness. Our God his covenant recalls; his pow'rful arm in judgment falls:

The mighty from their thrones are cast, the humble lifted up at last, The rich denied, the hungry fed, the proud dispersed, the faithful led. The mercies of our God endure for God recalls his promise sure.

ÖÖOfferingÖÖ & ÖÖPrayersÖÖ

- P: O WISDOM, come!
- C: You govern all creation with your strong yet tender care.
- P: O holy Word of God:
- C: Come; teach us; make us wise!
- P: O SACRED LORD, come!
- C: You showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Mount Sinai.
- P: O Ruler of the house of Israel:
- C: Stretch out your arm and save us!
- P: O BRANCH OF JESSE, come!
- C: Kings are silent in your presence and nations bow before you.
- P: O Sign for all peoples:
- C: Come quickly to deliver us!

- P: OKEY OF DAVID, come!
- C: You open and no one can close; you close and no one can open.
- P: O Royal Power of Israel:
- C: Break down the walls of prison death!
- P: O RADIANT DAWN, come!
- C: Shine on those who dwell in deadly darkness.
- P: O Splendor of Eternal Light:
- C: Arise and come, O Sun of Righteousness!
- P: O KING OF THE NATIONS, come!
- C: You are the only joy of every human heart; you bring together peoples long apart.
- P: O Cornerstone:
- C: Save us, whom you fashioned from the dust!
- P: O EMMANUEL, come!
- C: You are the King of creation, the Hope of all nations, the Savior of all.
- P: O King and Lord:
- C: God-with-us, come!

Benediction D

Closing Hymn O Little Town

O humble Lord from Nazareth, the blessed virgin's Son Born to fulfill God's gracious will, thy will in us be done! Lord, let thy saving splendor in brilliance now be seen Till all the earth proclaim thy worth, beloved Nazarene!