BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

- P In the name of the Father and of the [‡] Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Beloved in the Lord, as we begin the season of Advent, let this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of His glorious kingdom. As the prophet Isaiah says, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined."
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,C who made heaven and earth.
- P The Lord be with you.
- C And with Thy Spirit.
- P Let us pray.
 O Lord Jesus Christ, the true light who comes into the world to enlighten all people, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming, and enkindle in our hearts the fire of Your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
 C Amen.
- P The Lord Almighty, the Father, the [‡] Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this wreath for use in His Church throughout this holy season of Advent.
 C Amen.

EVENING PRAYER SERVICE *The Dead Church*

OPENING HYMN

LSB #508

"The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"

VERSICLE

- L The Spirit and the Church cry out:
- C Come, Lord Jesus.
- L All those who await His appearance pray:
- C Come, Lord Jesus.
- L The whole creation pleads:
- C Come, Lord Jesus.

PHOS HILARON

p 244

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT p 245

PSALMODY

Psalm 141 p 245 *Congregation sings C Pastor sings I and II

PSALM~Tone BPsalm 32 (antiphon v 7)*Pastor sings verse 7 at beginning and end
Congregation sings the even verses

OFFICE HYMN

"O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold"

 O Lord, look down from heaven, behold And let Thy pity waken:
 How few are we within Thy Fold, Thy saints by men forsaken!
 True faith seems quenched on every hand, Men suffer not Thy Word to stand;
 Dark times have us o'ertaken.

2. With fraud which they themselves invent Thy truth they have confounded; Their hearts are not with one consent On Thy pure doctrine grounded.While they parade with outward show, They lead the people to and fro, In error's maze astounded.

3. May God root out all heresyAnd of false teachers rid usWho proudly say: "Now, where is heThat shall our speech forbid us?By right or might we shall prevail;What we determine cannot fail;We own no lord and master."

TLH #260

4. Therefore saith God, "I must arise, The poor My help are needing; To Me ascend My people's cries, And I have heard their pleading. For them My saving Word shall fight And fearlessly and sharply smite, The poor with might defending."

5. As silver tried by fire is pureFrom all adulteration,So through God's Word shall men endureEach trial and temptation.Its light beams brighter through the cross,And, purified from human dross,It shines through every nation.

6. Thy truth defend, O God, and stay This evil generation; And from the error of their way Keep Thine own congregation. The wicked everywhere abound And would Thy little flock confound; But Thou art our Salvation.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Revelation 3:1–6 Revelation 3:14–22

<u>SERMON</u> 'The Dead Church'

CANTICLE

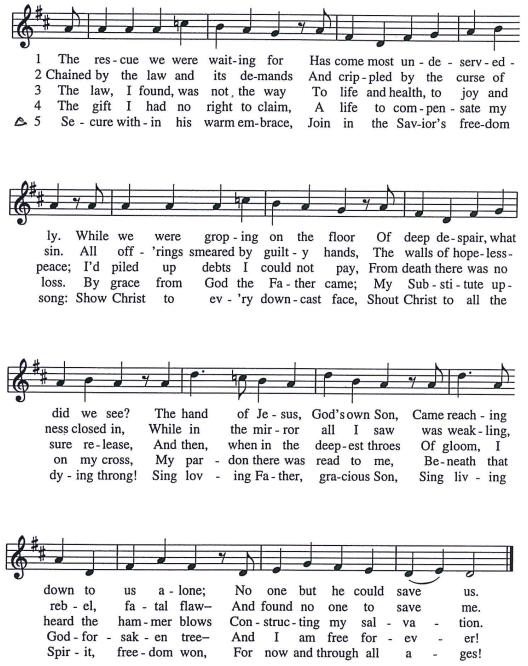
"The Rescue We Were Waiting For" (Vajda 718, 5 verses to the tune Es Ist Das Heil which is the same as LSB 555-Salvation Unto Us Has Come) -4718

The Rescue We Were Waiting For

Jaroslav J. Vajda (1987)

ES IST DAS HEIL 88 88 88 7

-5-



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OFFERING

PRAYER

<u>LITANY</u>	p 249
COLLECT FOR PEACE	p 251
LORD'S PRAYER	p 251
BENEDICAMUS	p 252
BENEDICTION	p 252
CLOSING HYMN "O Christ, Who Art the Light ar	LSB #882 1d Day"

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

<u>Festival of Trees</u> Friday, December 6th 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Drake Library

<u>Christmas Caroling at Windsor Manor</u> Sunday, December 8th at 11:30 a.m.

<u>Midweek Advent Evening Prayer Services</u> Wednesday, December 4th at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 18th at 6:30 p.m.

> *A meal will be served before each service at 5:30 p.m.

<u>Christmas Program Practice</u> Sunday, December 1st from 10:15-11:30 a.m. Sunday, December 8th from 10:15-11:30 a.m. Saturday, December 14th from 9:00-10:30 a.m.

<u>Children's Christmas Program</u> Sunday, December 15th at 10:30 a.m.

<u>Christmas Eve Prayer Service</u> Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

<u>Christmas Day Service</u> Wednesday, December 25th at 9:00 a.m.

<u>Divine Service</u> Tuesday, December 31st at 4:00 p.m.