

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 B*

Psalm 32 (antiphon v 7)

*Pastor sings verse 7 at beginning and end

Congregation sings the even verses

OFFICE HYMN

TLH #260

“O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold”

1. 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 heresy
And of false teachers rid us
Who proudly say: "Now, where is he
That shall our speech forbid us?
By right or might we shall prevail;
What we determine cannot fail;
We own no lord and master."

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 pure
From all adulteration,
So through God’s Word shall men endure
Each 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

SERMON ‘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)*

718 The Rescue We Were Waiting For

Jaroslav J. Vajda (1987)

ES IST DAS HEIL
88 88 88 7



1 The res-cue we were wait-ing for Has come most un - de - serv - ed -
2 Chained by the law and its de-mands And cri-p-pled by the curse of
3 The law, I found, was not, the way To life and health, to joy and
4 The gift I had no right to claim, A life to com-pen - sate my
5 Se - cure with - in his warm em-brace, Join in the Sav-ior's free-dom



ly. While we were grop - ing on the floor Of deep de-spair, what
sin. All off - 'rings smeared by guilt - y hands, The walls of hope-less-
peace; I'd piled up debts I could not pay, From death there was no
loss. By grace from God the Fa - ther came; My Sub - sti - tute up -
song: Show Christ to ev - 'ry down-cast face, Shout Christ to all the



did we see? The hand of Je - sus, God's own Son, Came reach - ing
ness closed in, While in the mir - ror all I saw was weak - ling,
sure re-lease, And then, when in the deep-est throes Of gloom, I
on my cross, My par - don there was read to me, Be - neath that
dy - ing through! Sing lov - ing Fa - ther, gra-cious Son, Sing liv - ing



down to us a - lone; No one but he could save us.
reb - el, fa - tal flaw - And found no one to save me.
heard the ham-mer blows Con - struc - ting my sal - va - tion.
God - for - sak - en tree - And I am free for - ev - er!
Spir - it, free - dom won, For now and through all a - ges!

OFFERING

PRAYER

<u>LITANY</u>	p 249
<u>COLLECT FOR PEACE</u>	p 251
<u>LORD’S PRAYER</u>	p 251
<u>BENEDICAMUS</u>	p 252
<u>BENEDICTION</u>	p 252
<u>CLOSING HYMN</u>	LSB #882
<i>“O Christ, Who Art the Light and Day”</i>	

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Festival of Trees

*Friday, December 6th 5:30-7:30 p.m.
at the Drake Library*

Christmas Caroling at Windsor Manor

Sunday, December 8th at 11:30 a.m.

Midweek Advent Evening Prayer Services

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.*

Christmas Program Practice

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.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15th at 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Prayer Service

Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, December 25th at 9:00 a.m.

Divine Service

Tuesday, December 31st at 4:00 p.m.