

Advent Vespers  
for December 15, 2021

*Behold!*

1. The Opening Hymn: #96, "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

2. The Confession of Sin, p. 120

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.**

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.

3. The Versicles, p. 120

P: O Lord, open my lips.

**C: ♪And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.**

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

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

**All: ♪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; forever more. Amen.**

4. The Psalmody: Psalm 70

P: ♪ Make haste, O God, to `deliver me! / Make haste to `help me, O LORD!

**C: Let them be ashamed and confounded `Who seek my life; / Let them be turned back and confused who `desire my hurt.**

Let them be turned back because of their shame,/ Who say, "Aha, aha!"

**Let all those who seek You/ rejoice and be glad in You;**

And let those who love Your salvation say continually,/ "Let God be magnified!"

**But I am poor and needy;/ Make haste to me, O God!**

You are my help and my deliverer;/ O LORD, do not delay.

**All: 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: forever - more. Amen.**

**5. The Lesson:** Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter of Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you;

he has cleared away your enemies.

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;

you shall never again fear evil.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

"Fear not, O Zion;

let not your hands grow weak.

The LORD your God is in your midst,

a mighty one who will save;

he will rejoice over you with gladness;

he will quiet you by his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing.

I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival,

so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

Behold, at that time I will deal

with all your oppressors.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you in,

at the time when I gather you together;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes," says the LORD.

**The Explanation to the Second Article:**

**C: I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary; and that He is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent suffering and death; in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

**6. The Chief Hymn:** #141, "Once He Came In Blessing"

**7. The Sermon:** "Zephaniah Tells Us Why We Can Rejoice In the Lord"

**9. An Offering:** The offering for the midweek Advent Service is designated for snake bit kits for the children in our Peruvian Amazon churches and for smart TVs to keep the remote mountain churches connected to their Peruvian brothers and sisters.

10. The Versicle, p. 122

P: Let my prayers be set before You as incense:

**C: ♪And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice**

11. The Magnificat, p. 123

**♪My soul / magnifies the Lord... And my spirit rejoices in / God my Savior.**

**For He / has regarded... The low estate of / His handmaiden;**

**For be-/-hold, from henceforth... all generations shall / call me blessed.**

**For He that is mighty has / done to me great things... And ho-/-ly is His name.**

**And His mercy is on / those that fear Him...From generation to / generation.**

**He has shown / strength with His arm; He has scattered *the* proud in the imagi-/-nation of their hearts.**

**He has put down the / mighty from *their* thrones...And exalted *those* / of low degree.**

**He has filled *the* / hungry with good things...And *the* rich He has sent / empty away.**

**He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance / of *His* mercy...As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his / seed forever.**

**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... forev-/-er more. Amen.**

12. The Prayers, Beginning with the Kyrie, p. 124

**℟ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

13. The Lord's Prayer , p. 125

**℟ 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 temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

14. The Collect, p. 126

P: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us in the end of the day, in the end of our life, and in the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair when death shall come. Abide with us and with all the faithful through time and eternity. **C: Amen.**

15. The Benedicamus, p. 127

P: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: ℟ Thanks be to God.**

16. The Benediction, p. 127

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: ℟ Amen.**

17. A Closing Hymn, #128:1-3,7-8, "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"