

December 6, 2023: Midweek Advent 2

CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE: Samuel

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Advent Gathering Rite

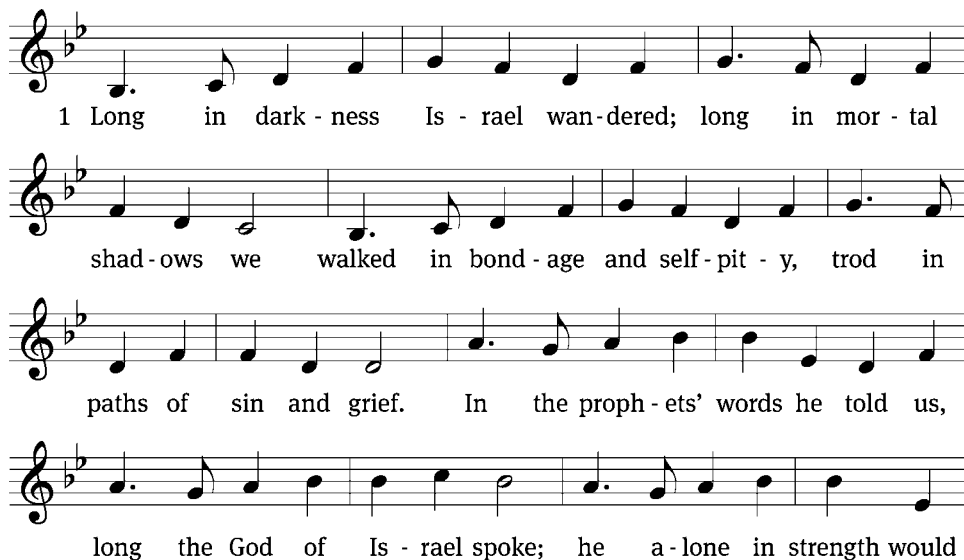
The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of deep darkness

a light has dawned.

Hymn: 311 Dawning Light of Our Salvation

Soloist



1 Long in dark - ness Is - rael wan - dered; long in mor - tal
shad - ows we walked in bond - age and self - pit - y, trod in
paths of sin and grief. In the proph - ets' words he told us,
long the God of Is - rael spoke; he a - lone in strength would



save us from the hands of all our foes.



Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed! Ev - 'ry moun - tain



be made plain! Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;



all cre - a - tion bend in praise!

Text: Wendell Kimbrough, b. 1983

Tune: Bruce Benedict, b. 1980

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Confession of Sin

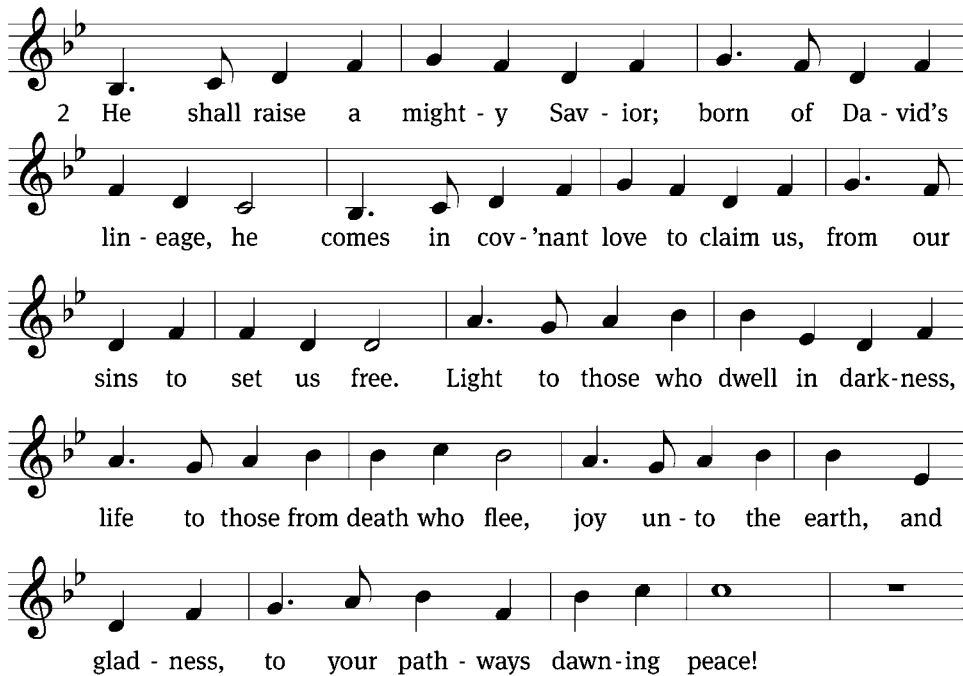
Advent is a season of repentance and preparation. In a humble spirit of repentance, let us confess our sins to God, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit, and sins of choice.
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
Oh Lord, I am sorry for my sins.
Forgive me for Jesus' sake.**

The congregation sings:

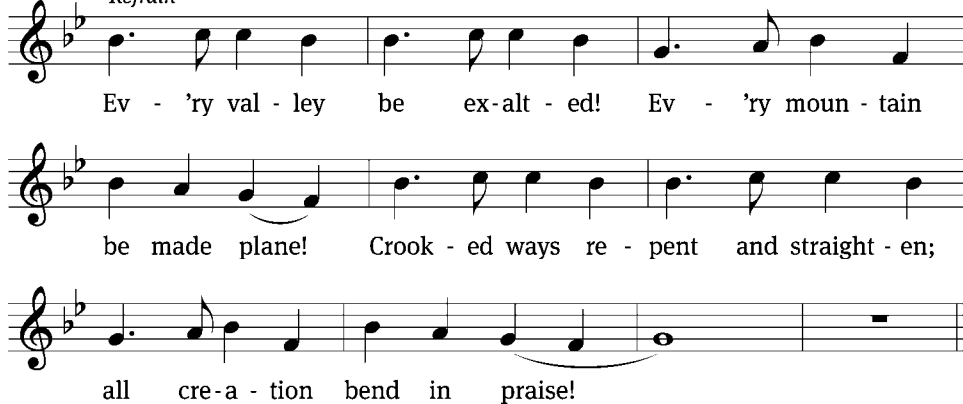
Hymn: 311 Dawning Light of Our Salvation

sts. 2, Ref



2 He shall raise a might - y Sav - ior; born of Da - vid's
lin - eage, he comes in cov - 'nant love to claim us, from our
sins to set us free. Light to those who dwell in dark - ness,
life to those from death who flee, joy un - to the earth, and
glad - ness, to your path - ways dawn - ing peace!

Refrain



Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed! Ev - 'ry moun - tain
be made plane! Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;
all cre - a - tion bend in praise!

Absolution

God has forgiven all of your sins. Showing the greatest act of selfless love, he sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, to take your place. Jesus came to die so that you might be free from the guilt and punishment of your sins. We praise God for his love and forgiveness.

Amen.

The congregation sings:

Hymn: 311 Dawning Light of Our Salvation

sts. 3, Ref

3 Je - sus, Lord, and might - y Sav - ior, Da - vid's son and
yet his King, dawn - ing light of our sal - va - tion, of your
sav - ing pow'r we sing! Stand, O lame, and dance, ye bro - ken;
know the Sav - ior's heal - ing grace. Come, O deaf, and hear him
sing - ing; turn, O blind, be - hold his face!

Refrain
Ev - 'ry val - ley be ex - alt - ed! Ev - 'ry moun - tain
be made plane! Crook - ed ways re - pent and straight - en;
all cre - a - tion bend in praise!

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Prayer

Let us pray.

Lord, in ancient times you rescued your people despite their unfaithfulness. Though you delivered them from slavery in Egypt and brought them into a land flowing with milk and honey, they grumbled and rebelled against you time and again. Truly, you are a God who saves your people not because of their goodness and faithfulness but simply because of your great mercy. For this we thank you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reading

1 Samuel 3:1–10

¹The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

²One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

⁶Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reading

1 Samuel 7:5–17

⁵Then Samuel said, “Assemble all Israel at Mizpah, and I will intercede with the LORD for you.” ⁶When they had assembled at Mizpah, they drew water and poured it out before the LORD. On that day they fasted and there they confessed, “We have sinned against the LORD.” Now Samuel was serving as leader of Israel at Mizpah.

⁷When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them. When the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid because of the Philistines. ⁸They said to Samuel, “Do not stop crying out to the LORD our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines.” ⁹Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. He cried out to the LORD on Israel’s behalf, and the LORD answered him.

¹⁰While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle. But that day the LORD thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites. ¹¹The men of Israel rushed out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, slaughtering them along the way to a point below Beth Kar.

¹²Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, “Thus far the LORD has helped us.”

¹³So the Philistines were subdued and they stopped invading Israel’s territory. Throughout Samuel’s lifetime, the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines. ¹⁴The towns from Ekron to Gath that the Philistines had captured from Israel were restored to Israel, and Israel delivered the neighboring territory from the hands of the Philistines. And there was peace between Israel and the Amorites.

¹⁵Samuel continued as Israel’s leader all the days of his life. ¹⁶From year to year he went on a circuit from Bethel to Gilgal to Mizpah, judging Israel in all those places. ¹⁷But he always went back to Ramah, where his home was, and there he also held court for Israel. And he built an altar there to the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reading

Acts 3:24–26

²⁴“Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. ²⁵And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ ²⁶When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

631 Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening

Sermon:

Pastor Robert Raasch

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Continued on the next page

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

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315 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Prayer

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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 lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom

and the power and the glory

forever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

The grace of our Lord T Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

Presiding Minister:

Pastor Robert Raasch

Organist

Jon Riehle AM / April Schaefer PM

Soloist

Kari Tiarks

Acknowledgments

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