

# ADVENT 2

(Standing)

Sing to the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things.

**We will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and tell of God's deeds in songs of joy.**

Awake, awake, you people of God, put on your festive garments.

**For God has already clothed us with the garments of salvation and has covered us with the robe of righteousness.**

The Holy One has delivered us and has become our salvation.

BRESLAU

All praise to you, e - ter - nal Lord, clothed in a  
All this for us your love has done, by this to

garb of flesh and blood, choos - ing a man - ger  
you our love is won, for this we sing through

for your throne, while worlds on worlds are yours a - lone.  
all our days and shout our thanks in cease - less praise.

We give thanks to you, eternal God, for the Word in human form given to us in the child of Bethlehem.

**The Word speaks to us in a way we cannot avoid:**

Therefore, let us put aside the masks of pretended righteousness and confess our sins to God.

(Kneeling or sitting)

Gracious God, this Advent season stirs a longing to have Christ come alive within us, yet we allow ourselves to become enslaved to cynicism, selfishness, and greed. In a season for freely giving and receiving, we tend to live by debt and obligation. We rush from task to task, scarcely opening our eyes to the peace and beauty around us. We glory in the visions of the old man Zechariah in the temple, which were fulfilled in his wife, Elizabeth; but our ministry to the elderly in our midst falls short. We sing of One who was laid in a borrowed manger, but we ignore the poor and homeless among us. We decry the violence of a wicked king, yet we are too often silent in the face of abuse and injustice around us. For these and all our sins, forgive us, we pray, gracious God.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to them and proclaim that they have suffered long enough, that their penalty is paid, and their sins are forgiven.

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Christ Jesus gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify a people of his own. Thanks be to God!

(Standing)

JUDGMENT (585 A)

Je - sus came, a - dored by an - gels, came with peace from realms on high;  
Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy, when our hearts are bowed with care;

Je - sus came for our re - demp - tion, low - ly came on earth to die:  
Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer to our ear - nest heart - felt prayer:

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.

We believe in Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, who lived among us as foretold by the prophets, who was descended from the royal line of David, and who was baptized in the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might.

**He does not judge by what his eyes see, nor decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he judges the poor and decides with equity for the meek of the earth.**

We believe in the coming reign of God when justice will be established in the earth.

**How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains who brings good news, the news of peace, who announces salvation, who says, "Your God reigns."**

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

**The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.**

REJOICE (151 I)

Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear!

A - rise, the sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere!

With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we look, O Lord, to you

for all the earth's re - demp - tion, cre - a - tion made a - new.

(All may join in the following prayers of intercession,  
or the service may proceed as the liturgist directs.)

(Sitting)

Christ, the Light of the world, empower us to shine as lights in this dark world of sin.

**Christ, the Creative Word, by whom all things were made, lead us into good stewardship of creation that we and our children may preserve and enjoy the world entrusted to us.**

Christ, the Living Truth, give us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that sees beyond temporal values to discern your truth and to declare it.

**Christ, our Righteous Judge, give us courage to stand by the poor, the meek, and the oppressed; and strengthen our support for all who are their advocates.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, send us forth as your ambassadors of reconciliation in a broken and troubled world; bring peace to the conflicts of nations, races, and tribes.

**We are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that we might proclaim the mighty acts of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light. May our lives show forth that which we truly are. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

(Standing)

May the Lord make us increase in love for one another and for all.

**May the Holy Spirit strengthen us to become more like Christ as we eagerly await his coming.**

GERMANY (22 R)

We long for might - y signs of God - ca - the - dral,  
 But poor, in weak - ness, comes the Christ; his glo - ry  
 Not in our own strength, Lord, we move; your king - dom

mir - a - cle, and sword, his pow'r and glo - ry  
 gone, no king we see; a ser - vant Lord, no  
 falls not when we fall, but for - ward press - es

writ - ten plain - so none may doubt that he is Lord.  
 praise he seeks. Thus comes God's power to you and me.  
 day by day un - til your truth is known to all.

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