

## MID-DAY PRAYER: VOICES OF ADVENT SESSION 2

(adapted from ACC Seasonal Daily Prayer for Advent)

Restore us, O Creator of the stars of night;  
**show us the light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.**

Will you not give us life again,  
**so that your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your mercy, O God,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

Blessed is the Christ who comes in your name!  
**Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.**

### Psalm 139:1-12

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out \*  
**and known me.**
- 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; \*  
**you discern my thoughts from afar.**
- 3 You trace my journeys and my resting-places \*  
**and are acquainted with all my ways.**
- 4 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, \*  
**but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**
- 5 You press upon me behind and before \*  
**and lay your hand upon me.**
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; \*  
**it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**
- 7 Where can I go then from your Spirit? \*  
**Where can I flee from your presence?**
- 8 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; \*  
**if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**
- 9 If I take the wings of the morning \*  
**and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,**
- 10 even there your hand will lead me \*  
**and your mighty hand hold me fast.**
- 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, \*  
**and the light around me turn to night."**
- 12 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as  
bright as the day; \*  
**darkness and light to you are both alike.**

*Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word  
and Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will  
be for ever. Amen.*

## THE READINGS

*Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church: **Thanks  
be to God.***

### MALACHI 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

### The Song of Zechariah: Luke 1:68-79

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, \*  
you have come to your people and set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour, \*  
born of the house of your servant David.

Through your holy prophets, \*  
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all who hate us, \*  
to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.

This was the oath you swore to our father  
Abraham: \*

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship you without fear, \*  
holy and righteous before you, all the days of  
our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the  
Most High, \*

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the  
way,

to give God's people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

### LITANY

*Watchful at all times, let us pray to God in the spirit of expectation held by Mary and Joseph, saying “**hear and have mercy**”:*

God, our Maker and Redeemer, fill the earth with justice and compassion.

God of Mary and Joseph,  
**hear and have mercy.**

Establish righteousness in the nations.

God of Mary and Joseph,  
**hear and have mercy.**

Bind up the broken-hearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen.

God of Mary and Joseph,  
**hear and have mercy.**

Shine the light of Christ on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death.

God of Mary and Joseph,  
**hear and have mercy.**

Empower us, with all the saints in light, to be your witnesses in the world.

God of Mary and Joseph,  
**hear and have mercy.**

### COLLECT

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, so that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the coming your Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Awaiting his coming in glory  
and gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

May Christ, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. **Amen.**