

MID-DAY PRAYER: VOICES OF ADVENT SESSION 3

(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.

Song of Thanksgiving (Isaiah 12:2-6)

Surely, it is God who saves me; **I will trust in
him and not be afraid.**

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure
defence, **and he will be my Saviour.**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say, **Give thanks to
the Lord and call upon his name;**
make his deeds known among the peoples; **see
that they remember that his name is
exalted.**

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done
great things, **and this is known in all the
world.**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,
**for the great one in the midst of you is the
Holy One of Israel.**

*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.*

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O
daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away
the judgements against you, he has turned away
your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in
your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On
that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not

fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior
who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with
gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will
exult over you with loud singing as on a day of
festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that
you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with
all your oppressors at that time. 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 home, at
the time when I gather you; 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.

LUKE 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be
baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who
warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin
to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our
ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these
stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even
now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every
tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut
down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds
asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply
he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must
share with anyone who has none; and whoever
has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors
came to be baptized, and they asked him,
"Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them,
"Collect no more than the amount prescribed for
you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what
should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort
money from anyone by threats or false
accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."
As the people were filled with expectation, and
all were questioning in their hearts concerning
John, whether he might be the Messiah, John
answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you
with water; but one who is more powerful than I
is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of
his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy
Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his
hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather
the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will
burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many

other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Merciful God, your word, spoken by the prophets, restores your people’s life and hope. Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, so that we may hold fast to your great goodness and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world, through your Christ who comes among us. **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.**