



## MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 2

Tonight, we focus on lights. You see them everywhere this time of year. Some neighborhoods even compete, and tourist destinations spend millions on attractive light displays. Like evergreens, this is something nonreligious people do this time of year without appreciating their true significance. Yet we know that Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12). He came to restore righteousness to the world. This restoration continues to unfold through the ministry He has entrusted to His church. As Zechariah sang, “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” (*LSB*, Benedictus, Morning Prayer). We gather this evening to bask in the light of Jesus that His Word would have its way with us and so reflect His saving light into the darkness that remains in our world.

## **HYMN #347 – Hark the Glad Sound**

### **OPENING SENTENCES**

*Psalm 51:15; 70:1*

**P** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

**P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** **make haste to help me, O Lord.**

**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.  
Amen.**

**Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.**

+ READINGS +

*Isaiah 9:1–2, 6–7, 2 Corinthians 4:3–6, John 1:1–9*

### **SERMON**

## **HYMN 914 - Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten 914**

(To the Tune of “Angels from the Realms of Glory”)

### **ANTIPHON**

*LSB, p. 231*

**P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

**C** **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**

### **KYRIE**

*LSB, p. 233*

**C** **Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

- C **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.**

## COLLECTS

- P O Lord, hear my prayer.  
C **And let my cry come to You.**
- P For eyes to behold the Father's hand in all creation, let us  
pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For awareness of beauty and the living traditions of the  
church that bring Christ to our eyes through arts and crafts,  
let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P That we may see the signs of Christ's return even as we  
celebrate His birth, and encourage one another all the more  
as we see the Day drawing near, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P That we may be living testimonies of new life in Christ  
through our loving service to our neighbor—both in word  
and in deed—let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P That we may be thankful for the bountiful harvest we enjoy  
amid the many festivities of this season, and be generous to  
the poor, let us pray to the Lord:  
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we may love one another as God so loved us, forgive one another, and work together in the unity we have in Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P That we may not be lured into temptation or despair or be distracted by the false Christmases around us, but always hold the true meaning of Christmas in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Lord of light and life, You came into our world to remove sin and restore us to righteousness. Shine Your light anew into our hearts and cleanse us from all the deceiving evils that lurk within them, that we may live without fear of this world but joyfully anticipate Your glorious return; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## BENEDICTION

*LSB, p. 234*

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

C **Amen.**

## Hymn #361 – O Little Town of Bethlehem