

Prelude

Candlelighting (Lucernaria)

V. Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.

R. ***Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.***

V. Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved:

R. **O Lord God of hosts.**

V. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

R. ***Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.***

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord:

R. ***And grant us your salvation.***

Opening Hymn

Lo! He comes, with clouds descending

Hymnal #57

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, amen! let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Acclamation

pg. 355 in Book of Common Prayer

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

Collect for Purity

Gloria

Elswick/Genevan Psalter 1551

Glory be to God the Father. Glory be to God the Son. Glory to the holy spirit. Praises to the Three in One. For the glory of the Lord. Now o'er earth is shed abroad. And all flesh shall see the token That God's word is never broken.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Reading: *Isaiah 2:1-5*

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Psalm 122

¹*I was glad when they said to me, * "Let us go to the house of the LORD."*

²*Now our feet are standing * within your gates, O Jerusalem.*

³*Jerusalem is built as a city * that is at unity with itself;*

⁴*To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, **

the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.

⁵*For there are the thrones of judgment, * the thrones of the house of David.*

⁶*Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: * "May they prosper who love you.*

⁷*Peace be within your walls * and quietness within your towers.*

⁸*For my brethren and companions' sake, * I pray for your prosperity.*

⁹*Because of the house of the LORD our God, * I will seek to do you good."*

The Second Reading: *Romans 13:11-14*

¹¹You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel Acclamation

Creator of the stars of night (verses 1, 2)

from Hymnal #60

Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,
you came, O Savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty.

The Gospel – *Matthew 24:36-44*

[Jesus said to his disciples,] ³⁶"About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Gospel Response

Creator of the stars (verse 6)

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

The Sermon

Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People

All remain standing. Presider or deacon

Let us pray for all our needs in this Holy Season, saying, **Hear us Lord!**

. . . Hear us as we remember those who have died in the peace of Christ, both those who have confessed the faith and those whose faith is known to you alone, and grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.
Lord, have mercy.

Confession of Sin

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Peace

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Music

Come, Jesus, Holy Son of God

Handel

Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee**

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing. . .

. . . to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Elswick/Swedish melody

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth your glory! Hosanna in the highest. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God. . .

. . . Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. . .

. . . By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

The 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Gerald Near

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion Hymn

My Lord, What a Morning

Spiritual

Sending Forth

Postcommunion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"Sleepers Wake!"

Hymnal #61

'Sleepers, wake!' A voice astounds us, the shout of rampart guards surrounds us:
'Awake, Jerusalem, arise!' Midnight's peace their cry has broken,
their urgent summons clearly spoken: 'The time has come, O maidens wise!
Rise up, and give us light; the Bridegroom is in sight. Alleluia!
Your lamps prepare and hasten there, that you the wedding feast may share.'

Zion hears the watchmen singing; her heart with joyful hope is springing,
she wakes and hurries through the night. Forth he comes, her Bridegroom glorious
in strength of grace, in truth victorious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
Now come, most worthy Lord, God's Son, Incarnate Word, Alleluia!
We follow all and heed your call to come into the banquet hall.

Lamb of God, the heavens adore you; let saints and angels sing before you,
as harps and cymbals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the city's portals:
through them we stream to join the immortals as we with joy your throne surround.
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such delight: Alleluia!
Therefore we sing to greet our King; for ever let our praises ring.

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944)

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Postlude

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

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