

Taking Gathered Worship Home

The Fourth Sunday in Advent – Sunday, December 22, 2019

Taking Gathered Worship Home (TGWH) has been developed for you to use in the private worship of your home, whether you are married or single, and whether or not you have children. It is a tool to knit us together throughout the church year. While we would encourage the use of TGWH in its entirety, you are encouraged to adapt the offerings to your particular circumstances. The prayer is taken from "Lutheran Worship" and the psalm readings are taken from the "Book of Common Prayer" and the daily readings are from "The Book of Common Worship."

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come among us with great might; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Readings

SUNDAY

Morning Psalter – 24, 29
Genesis 3:8-15
Revelation 12:1-12
John 3:16-21
Evening Psalter – 8, 84
♪ *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (p. 2)

MONDAY

Morning Psalter – 61, 62
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Titus 1:1-16
Luke 1:1-25
Evening Psalter – 112, 115
♪ Psalm 24 (p. 4)

TUESDAY | CHRISTMAS EVE

Morning Psalter – 45, 46
Isaiah 60:1-6
Galatians 3:23--4:7
Matthew 1:18-25
Evening Psalter – 89:1-29
♪ *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (p. 6)

WEDNESDAY | CHRISTMAS DAY

Morning Psalter – 2, 85
Micah 4:1-5; 5:2-4
1 John 4:7-16
John 3:31-36
Evening Psalter – 110, 132
♪ *Joy to the World* (p. 9)

THURSDAY | 2ND DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Morning Psalter – 116, 149
2 Chronicles 24:17-22
Acts 6:1-7
Acts 7:59—8:8
Evening Psalter – 27, 119:1-24
♪ *All My Heart This Night Rejoices* (p. 11)

FRIDAY | 3RD DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Morning Psalter – 72
2 Samuel 7:1-17
Titus 2:11—3:8a
Luke 1:39-56
Evening Psalter – 111, 113
♪ *O Little One Sweet, O Little One Mild* (p. 12)

SATURDAY | 4TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS

Morning Psalter – 2, 147:1-11
Isaiah 49:13-23
Isaiah 54:1-13
Matthew 18:1-14
Evening Psalter – 110, 111
♪ *Magnificat* (p. 13)

Heidelberg Catechism

Q. 9. Is God, then, not unjust by requiring in his law what man cannot do?

A. No, for God so created man that he was able to do it.^[1] But man, at the instigation of the devil,^[2] in deliberate disobedience^[3] robbed himself and all his descendants of these gifts.^[4]

[1] Gen. 1:31.

[2] Gen. 3:13; John 8:44; 1 Tim. 2:13, 14.

[3] Gen. 3:6.

[4] Rom. 5:12, 18, 19.

Q. 10. Will God allow such disobedience and apostasy to go unpunished?

A. Certainly not. He is terribly displeased with our original sin as well as our actual sins. Therefore he will punish them by a just judgment both now and eternally,^[1] as he has declared:^[2] Cursed be every one who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, and do them (Galatians 3:10).

[1] Ex. 34:7; Ps. 5:4-6; 7:10; Nah. 1:2; Rom. 1:18; 5:12; Eph. 5:6; Heb. 9:27.

[2] Deut. 27:26.

Q. 11. But is God not also merciful?

A. God is indeed merciful,^[1] but he is also just.^[2] His justice requires that sin committed against the most high majesty of God also be punished with the most severe, that is, with everlasting, punishment of body and soul.^[3]

[1] Ex. 20:6; 34:6, 7; Ps. 103:8, 9.

[2] Ex. 20:5; 34:7; Deut. 7:9-11; Ps. 5:4-6; Heb. 10:30, 31.

[3] Matt. 25:45-46.

In Preparation for the Divine Service: December 29, 2019, The First Sunday After Christmas

Sermon Reading: Titus 3:4-7
Rev. Jack Smith preaching

The Appointed Lessons:
Psalm 98 Titus 3:4-7
Isaiah 62:10-12 Luke 2:1-14