

# Advent Midweek Service

December 21, 2023

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

**Amen.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
**to sing praise to your name, O Most High,**

to herald your love in the morning,  
**your truth at the close of day.**

**792 O Trinity, Most Blessed Light**

CW 792

## Confession of Sins

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

**we have sinned against you**

**in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds,**

**and in all that we have not done.**

**Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.**

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve him in newness of life.

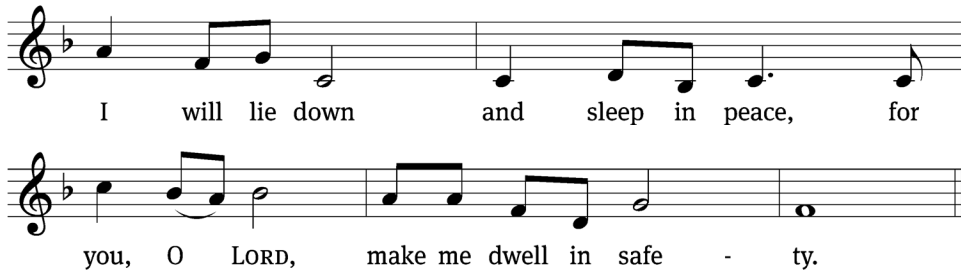
**Amen.**

## 4B I Will Lie Down and Sleep in Peace

Psalm 4B

The Cantor will sing verses, congregation sings the gloria and refrain.

### Refrain



I will lie down and sleep in peace, for  
you, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

### Tone



Answer me when I / call to you,  
my / righteous God.  
Give me relief from / my distress;  
have mercy on me and / hear my prayer. *Refrain*

Tremble and / do not sin;  
when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be / silent.  
Offer the sacrifices of the / righteous  
and trust / in the LORD. *Refrain*

Many, LORD, are asking, "Who will bring us pros- / perity?"  
Let the light of your face / shine on us.  
In peace I will lie / down and sleep,  
for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in / safety.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Tune: Dale A. Witte Setting: Dale A. Witte Music: © 2002 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714932

<sup>1</sup>After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat.

<sup>2</sup>Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar” (that is, En Gedi). <sup>3</sup>Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. <sup>4</sup>The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

<sup>5</sup>Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the LORD in the front of the new courtyard <sup>6</sup>and said:

“LORD, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. <sup>7</sup>Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? <sup>8</sup>They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, <sup>9</sup>‘If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.’

<sup>10</sup>“But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. <sup>11</sup>See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. <sup>12</sup>Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

<sup>13</sup>All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD.

<sup>14</sup>Then the Spirit of the LORD came on Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly.

<sup>15</sup>He said: “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or

discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. <sup>16</sup>Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. <sup>17</sup>You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.' "

<sup>18</sup>Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD.

<sup>19</sup>Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

<sup>20</sup>Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful." <sup>21</sup>After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

"Give thanks to the LORD,  
for his love endures forever."

<sup>22</sup>As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. <sup>23</sup>The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

<sup>24</sup>When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped. <sup>25</sup>So Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing and also articles of value—more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it. <sup>26</sup>On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berakah, where they praised the LORD. This is why it is called the Valley of Berakah to this day.

<sup>27</sup>Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the LORD had given them cause to rejoice over

their enemies. <sup>28</sup>They entered Jerusalem and went to the temple of the LORD with harps and lyres and trumpets.

<sup>29</sup>The fear of God came on all the surrounding kingdoms when they heard how the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel. <sup>30</sup>And the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.

<sup>31</sup>So Jehoshaphat reigned over Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he became king of Judah, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-five years. His mother's name was Azubah daughter of Shilhi. <sup>32</sup>He followed the ways of his father Asa and did not stray from them; he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD. <sup>33</sup>The high places, however, were not removed, and the people still had not set their hearts on the God of their ancestors.

<sup>34</sup>The other events of Jehoshaphat's reign, from beginning to end, are written in the annals of Jehu son of Hanani, which are recorded in the book of the kings of Israel.

<sup>35</sup>Later, Jehoshaphat king of Judah made an alliance with Ahaziah king of Israel, whose ways were wicked. <sup>36</sup>He agreed with him to construct a fleet of trading ships. After these were built at Ezion Geber, <sup>37</sup>Eliezer son of Dodavahu of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, "Because you have made an alliance with Ahaziah, the LORD will destroy what you have made." The ships were wrecked and were not able to set sail to trade.

<sup>1</sup>Then Jehoshaphat rested with his ancestors and was buried with them in the City of David. And Jehoram his son succeeded him as king. <sup>2</sup>Jehoram's brothers, the sons of Jehoshaphat, were Azariah, Jehiel, Zechariah, Azariahu, Michael and Shephatiah. All these were sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel. <sup>3</sup>Their father had given them many gifts of silver and gold and articles of value, as well as fortified cities in Judah, but he had given the kingdom to Jehoram because he was his firstborn son.

## **Offering**

*Our Savior's ministries are supported by the joyful gifts of her members. If you are not a member of Our Savior, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. It is our privilege and pleasure to serve you with God's Word today.*

*Please sign the friendship register and pass it down the pew.*

## Prayer

Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
**listen to my cry.**

Keep me as the apple of your eye;  
**hide me in the shadow of your wings.**

In righteousness I shall see you;  
**when I awake, your presence will give me joy.**

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who / sleep.\* Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, soothe the suffering, bless the dying—and all for your love's / sake; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## 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  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## 951 Lord, Now You Let Your Servant

CW 951

Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles  
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev.

Tune: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. James E. Engel, 1925–1989

Text and tune: Public domain

Let us praise the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

### Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

**Amen.**

## 322 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

CW 322

## **Acknowledgments**

Close of Day (Compline) from Christian Worship

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