



Service Notes

The Season

Advent means “coming.” This is the season of the Church Year when we remember that Christ will come again. He came once as a baby in Bethlehem and will return as King of kings and Lord of lords. The emphasis of the season is on preparation and watchfulness. The expectancy of Advent is fulfilled on Christmas.

The Candles

The candles symbolize Christ who is the light of the world. We pass the light of the candles just as we pass the light of Christ to others through the preaching of the Gospel. When the candles are all placed together on the chancel they serve as the focal point of the service.

The Service

Our service for tonight is an evening devotion with pieces of music developed in the Taizé Community in France. Taizé worship incorporates words of Scripture set to simple, repetitive musical refrains. The worshipper quickly can sing the piece from the heart and meditate on the words and works of God.



THE GATHERING

Our Darkness is Never Darkness in Your Sight

The cantor introduces the refrain and then the congregation joins in singing the refrain repeatedly while the light is passed from candle to candle.

Our dark - ness is nev - er dark - ness in your sight: the

deep - est night is clear as the day - light.

Last time ♩

Lighting of the Candles

Please tip your unlit candle to light. Hold the candles vertically so they won't drip wax.

Gathering of the Light

*Following the worship leader, come forward and place your candle before the altar.
Our gathered light is a symbol of Jesus Christ, the light of the world.*

Jesus, Remember Me

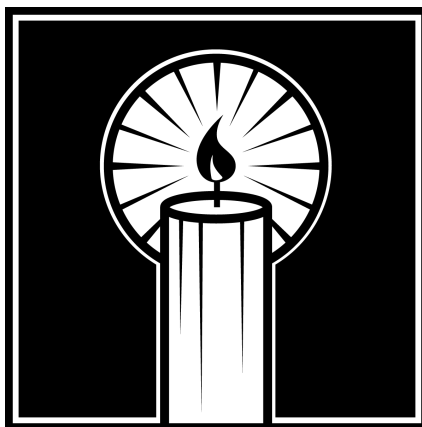
The cantor introduces the refrain and the congregation joins in singing repeatedly as the lights are placed before the altar.



Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in - to your king-dom.



Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in - to your king-dom.



- ¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

- ⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling^[a] together;
and a little child will lead them.
⁷ The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the
nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

[L] The Word of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God.

A Time for Meditation

The congregation reflects on forgiveness in Christ and ponders anew at the miracle of God's grace. God became man that man might live again with God.

L Lord God, our refuge and fortress, your faithfulness has protected us through this day. Now send your holy angels to guard us from danger through this night. Give us peaceful rest, free from fear, that we may wake refreshed to serve you, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer

C In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Blessing

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

C Amen.

Hymn

Now the Light Has Gone Away

Christian Worship #784



- 1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
- 2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way all that I've done wrong to - day.
- 3 Let my near and dear ones be safe with you e - ter - nal - ly.
- 4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; you once died that I might live.
- 5 Ah, my best and kind - est Friend, you will love me to the end.



ask - ing you to watch and keep and to send me qui - et sleep.
Make me ev - er more like you, good and gen - tle, kind and true.
O bring me and all I love to your hap - py home a - bove.
All your pre - cious gifts are free— oh, how good you are to me!
Let me love you more and more, al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

Acknowledgments

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