

BEHOLD THE CHILD



December 18, 2019

## **FOR YOU, TO BEAR YOUR FLESH IN WEAKNESS**

The grass is always greener on the other side. So we lie to ourselves. Blinded to how blessed we are, we covet what God has given to another. We long to switch places with another whom we deem to be living the good life.

While such desires on our part reveal our sinful myopia, God does ordain a grand switch. First, He promises that the proud will be humbled and the humble will be exalted. Mary sings of this upon her pregnancy. It is a theme that is woven throughout Scripture.

There is a far grander swapping of places that occurs. Jesus humbles Himself so that you are filled with good things, even the greatest things. This is the great exchange. Jesus humbles Himself, taking on your sin along with the punishment and death it incurs. You receive His righteousness and the eternal life that it merits.

The prophets had promised it of old. Mary sees it fulfilled in her Son, so she sings:

The Savior came in meekness  
For you, for you, to bear your flesh in weakness.

## Vespers with Holy Communion

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

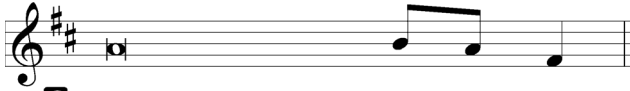
**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

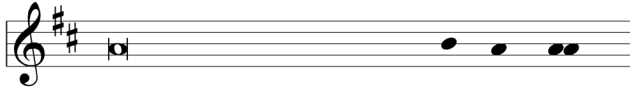
## Advent Versicles



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



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



**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



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

## Readings From Holy Scripture

### First Reading – Isaiah 66:1-2

Thus says the LORD:

“Heaven is my throne,  
and the earth is my footstool;  
what is the house that you would build for me,  
and what is the place of my rest?  
All these things my hand has made,  
and so all these things came to be,  
declares the LORD.

But this is the one to whom I will look:  
he who is humble and contrite in spirit  
and trembles at my word.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### Second Reading – James 4:6-10

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**G** Thanks be to God.

### **Third Reading – Luke 1:46-55**

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
For behold, from now on all generations will call me  
blessed;  
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
And his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their  
hearts;  
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Sermon**

## Magnificat



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it  
2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -  
3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters  
4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y



leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -  
maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like  
those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -  
leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -



gard, And I am blest for time to come.  
light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.  
tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.  
el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

## Offering

## Kyrie



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

## Litany

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**



**P** For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:

**C** **Alleluia.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:

**C** **To You, O Lord.**

### **Collect for Peace**

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **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.**

- P** In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

### **The Words of Our Lord**

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{†}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{†}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **Distribution**

### **Post-Communion Collect**

- P** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns

with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **Benedicamus and Benediction**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**Hymn** – *Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord*

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