

Be Born In Us Today

A Series of Special Services for Advent

Week 2: Be Born In Us Today Bringing Renewal

Order of Service

They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

Opening Hymn ... On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry LSB#344

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

We hail thee as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
Without thy grace we waste away like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Lay on the sick thy healing hand and make the fallen strong to stand;
Show us the glory of thy face till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

(The first and second blue or purple candles are lit.)

P We light the second candle on the Advent wreath to celebrate the renewal of our lives through faith in Christ Jesus. The apostle Paul writes, "We were buried therefore with [Christ] by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

C Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. You were born among us to bring us new life.

P “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect”
(Romans 12:2).

C Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Renew our hearts and minds in the power of the Holy Spirit so that we might serve you by serving others.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

C Almighty God, we confess to you that we do not always live in the newness of life that is ours in Jesus. We fall back into our selfish ways. We do not love others as we should. Instead of following your will, we seek to conform our lives to the world’s temptations. Have mercy on us and forgive us. Renew and restore us.

P God had mercy on us and sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus took our sins onto himself and suffered and died on the cross for us. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C Help us, Lord, to live in newness of life. Lead us to seek your will so that we might do what is good, acceptable and perfect in your sight.

Hymn ... O Little Town of Bethlehem LSB#361

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in. Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Prayer of the Day

Hymn ... Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus LSB#338

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation, joy of ev’ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 40:21-31

Epistle Reading ... Ephesians 1:7-10

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon Hymn ... O Lord, How Shall I Meet You LSB#334

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me.
A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high
That will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.

Sermon

Hymn of Response ... O Lord, How Shall I Meet You LSB#334

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

Sin's debt, that fearful burden, cannot his love erase;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace.
He comes, for you procuring the peace of sin forgiv'n,
His children thus securing eternal life in heav'n.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Prayers

P Lord and Savior, hear our prayers on behalf of those who are suffering through illness or enduring grief and loss. Renew and strengthen them in faith through the promises of your holy Word. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. Lead us, as brothers and sisters in Christ, to serve one another in love and to bring comfort and hope to those in need.

P Lord and Savior, in Baptism we were united to you in your death, buried with you and raised to new life. Through faith in your name, we have forgiveness and eternal life. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. Conform our hearts and minds to your will so that by our thoughts, words and actions we glorify your holy name.

P Lord and Savior, you are ever watchful and caring, and you are present with us at all times. When we grow faint and weary in faith, forgive us and renew us according to the promises of your Word. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

C Be born in us today. Refresh us through your forgiveness and strengthen our faith so that we might serve others in love.

P Holy Savior, Lord of all nations, hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P "Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;

C They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:30-31).

P "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14).

C Amen.

Closing Hymn ... Renew Me, O Eternal Light

LSB#704

Renew me, O eternal Light,
and let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
that issues from your holy face.

Create in me a new heart, Lord,
that gladly I obey your Word.
Let what you will be my desire,
and with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only you may love
and seek those things which are above
Till I behold you face to face,
O Light eternal, through your grace.