

ADVENT MIDWEEK 2
"WAIT UPON THE LORD With HOPE
December 08, 2021
7 p.m.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope. Psalm 130:5

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

**L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

C: Amen.

L: Wait upon the Lord.

C: Be strong and courageous.

L: Wait upon the Lord. That's what Isaiah said.

C: Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

L: They shall mount up with wings like eagles.

C: They shall run and not be weary.

L: They shall walk and not faint. Wait upon the Lord.

C: Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

HYMN No. 349 "Hark the Glad Sound"

**Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.**

**He comes the prisoners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.**

**He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.**

**Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim
And heav'n's eternal arches ring with thy beloved name.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C: We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and sometimes with You. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray from Your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous, we ask You, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and keep us patiently waiting for the promised coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: You are invited to meditate on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater. (Silent Reflection)

L: Believe and receive the good news! God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all people. The Christ child's life began in a humble wooden manger and it ended on a wooden cross for our sins. What God has done in Christ by his incarnation and death, He has done for us. From the cross he cried out with His last breath, "It is finished!" Let His word be our personal assurance and everlasting hope.

C: My sins are forgiven in the holy name of + Christ who came and indeed, will come again. Amen.

L: Wait upon the Lord.

C: Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!

SONG OF PRAISE "I Have a Hope" Tommy Walker

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O Lord, rend the heavens and come down. Be our strength every morning and our salvation in the night of despair. Show forth your power and might, just as you did in the days of Isaiah the prophet; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit—God forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 40:27-31

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait upon 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.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING**Romans 8:22-25**

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

L: This is the Word of the Lord**C: Thanks be to God!****THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****L: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!****C: Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. Hallelujah!****THE GOSPEL READING John 1:1-5****L: The Gospel according to St John, the 1st Chapter.****C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.**C: Praise to You, O Christ.****HYMN No. 347 "Comfort, comfort Ye My People"**

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrow's load. Speak ye to
Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;
All that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed.
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;
God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
And all flesh shall see the token, that his word is never broken.

SERMON "Wait for the Lord with Hope" Senior Seminarian PJ Aarsvold

OFFERING will be received in the Foyer. Give thanks to the Lord for all His benefits!

PRAYERS

L: Heavenly Father, we wait for you.

C: More than watchmen wait for the morning—

L: More than watchmen wait for the morning.

C: Lead us in your truth and teach us

L: For you are the God of our salvation.

C: For you we wait all the day long.

L: O God, inspire us to wait for you faithfully.

C: Serve you joyfully.

L: And give to others generously.

C: Gracious Lord, grant healing for the sick.

L: Courage for the fainthearted.

C: Hope for the discouraged.

L: And great clarity for all in the valley of decision.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

BLESSING OF THE LORD

**P: May God give us the faith of Abraham,
the hope of Isaiah, the joy of Elizabeth,
and the gratitude of Zechariah.
God will make us strong and courageous.
C: As we wait upon the Lord! Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN No. 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.**

SENDING

**L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!**