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334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



5 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.

6 He comes to judge the nations,
A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations
And blessèd hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing.
O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering,
And guide us safely home.

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Opening Versicles

- **P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C let us rejoice and be glad in it.
- **P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- **C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- **P** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.
- **P** Prepare the way of the Lord.
- **C** Make His paths straight.
- P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.
- Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.

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- **P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- **C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.
- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.





Readings From Holy Scripture

Malachi 4

P A reading from Malachi, the fourth chapter.

¹ "For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ²But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. ³And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

⁴"Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. ⁶And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Reading Psalm 50:1–15

¹The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,

God shines forth.

³Our God comes; he does not keep silence; before him is a devouring fire,

around him a mighty tempest.

⁴He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:

5"Gather to me my faithful ones,

who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"

⁶The heavens declare his righteousness,

for God himself is judge!

⁷"Hear, O my people, and I will speak;

O Israel, I will testify against you.

I am God, your God.

⁸Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me.

⁹I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds.

¹⁰For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.

¹¹I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine.

¹²"If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and its fullness are mine.

¹³Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats?

¹⁴Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High,

¹⁵and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me." Reading Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,

and sing to your name."

¹⁰And again it is said,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹And again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

¹²And again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse will come,

even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;

in him will the Gentiles hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- Thanks be to God.

Reading Mark 1:1–8

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,

who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Responsory

- **P** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
- This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.
- He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.
- P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Ten Commandments

C You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Apostles' Creed

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.

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.

Sit





Sermon

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Prayer

P In peace let us pray to the Lord:

- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy.
- For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C Lord, have mercy.
- Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- **C** Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect of the Day

- E Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Collect for the Word

- P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen

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Blessing

- **P** Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.
- P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the

 → Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C Amen.

336 Lo! He comes with clouds descending

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- 1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
 - Once for ev'ry sinner slain;
 - Thousand thousand saints attending
 - Swell the triumph of His train:
 - Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
 - Christ the Lord returns to reign.
- 2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him
 - Robed in glorious majesty;
 - Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 - Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
 - Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
 - Shall their true Messiah see.
- 3 Those dear tokens of His passion
 - Still His dazzling body bears,
 - Cause of endless exultation
 - To His ransomed worshipers.
 - With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
 - Gaze we on those glorious scars!
- 4 Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,
 - High on Thine eternal throne;
 - Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
 - Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
 - Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
 - Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

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Acknowledgments

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