**ADVENT MIDWEEK 2**

Resounding Psalms for Advent: Revived

“Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us!” *Psalm 85:4*

**AS WE GATHER**

We do not often emphasize the psalms during the Advent season, instead being eager to read about the prophecies, anticipating Jesus’ coming. Yet the psalms are God’s Word during terrible times to people who lived before God’s promises were fulfilled in our Savior’s coming. This Advent, we focus on several psalms as we use them to prepare to celebrate our Lord’s birth with open eyes and ears.

Today we focus on Psalm 85, which pleads with the Lord of hosts, “Revive us again!” That’s asking for more than a little energy; it calls for rebirth and resurrection. And so the answer had to wait until Jesus came. We have been revived by our inclusion in the Body of Christ. Let the rejoicing resound!

**+ SERVICE OF LIGHT +**

**VERSICLES and HYMN OF LIGHT**

Pastor: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: All those who await His appearance pray:

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: The whole creation pleads:

**People: Come, Lord Jesus.**

**HYMN** *“O Light Whose Splendor”* (*LSB* 891)

**THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT**

Pastor: Let us pray. Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**+ PSALMODY +**

**PSALM 85**

Pastor: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

**People: that glory may dwell in our land.**

Pastor: Lord, You were favorable to Your land; You restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin. You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger.

**People: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.**

Pastor: Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us! Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us Your salvation.

**People: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.**

Pastor: Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.

**People: Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.**

Pastor: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.

**People: 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. Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved, that we may be saved! Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land.**

**+ READINGS +**

**READING**Nehemiah 4

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**READING** Mark 1:1-8

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**People: But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

**HYMN** *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* (*LSB* 357, vs. 1, 4-5)

**MESSAGE**

**HYMN** *“My Soul Rejoices”* (*LSB* 933)

**OFFERING**

**+ PRAYER +**

**PRAYERS**

Pastor: Let us pray. O Lord, who in the past revived Your people, showing them steadfast love, hear us as we pray for ourselves and all the Church: Strengthen our hope and increase faith and love among us and toward the world. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

**People: Hear our prayer, O Lord. Revive us again and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

Pastor: Show us Your steadfast love now, O Lord. Hear us as we pray for all who have been forgotten by the world’s commerce: Surround with faith-filled people all who are hungry and homeless, the many who are migrants and refugees, people dealing with sudden ills and long-term disabilities, and all who are in mourning. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

**People: Hear our prayer, O Lord. Revive us again and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

Pastor: Give us, O Lord, what we need as we struggle in this dark world: Renew in us true faith and peace, faithfulness in worship, a spiritual vitality, and a confidence in Your promise of eternal life. Grant that many join us in fruitful worship. Use us as fits Your gracious plans for them.

**People: Hear our prayer, O Lord. Revive us again and stir up our hearts to serve You.**

Pastor: By the blessed coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gave us His own righteousness, grant these our prayers, for we pray in His name.

**People: Amen.**

**COLLECT FOR TODAY**

Pastor: Revive us again, Lord our God, and give us Christ’s own righteousness so that we may serve You and love the people around us as living stones of Your temple; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**COLLECT FROM SUNDAY**

Pastor: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER**

**People: 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.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**BENEDICAMUS**

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**BENEDICTION**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the +Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**People: Amen.**

**HYMN** *“If Christ Had Not Been Raised from Death”* (*LSB* 486, tune of *LSB* 661)

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**