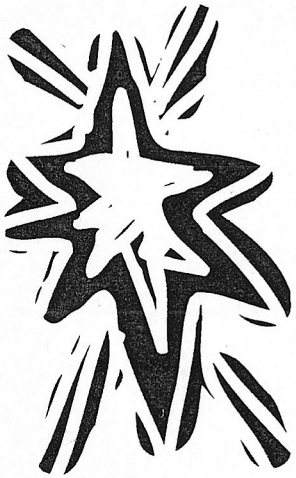
ADVENT MORNING PRAYER
December 21



Please Stand

God, come to my assistance
Lord make haste to help me
Glory 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

Morning Hymn: "Morning Has Broken"

1. *Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them springing fresh from the Word!*

2. *Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass.*

3. *Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play! Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning, God's recreation of the new day!*

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965. Tune: BUNESSAN, Gaelic

Psalmody (please be seated)

(repeat antiphon after leader)

Ant. The Lord will come from the holy place to save a people.

Psalm 33

L. Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to him a new song.

R. Give thanks to the Lord on the harp; with the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises.

L. Sing to him a new song; pluck the strings skillfully, with shouts of gladness.

R. But the plan of the Lord stands forever; the design of his heart, through all generations.

L. Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.

R. Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and our shield,

L. For in him our hearts rejoice; in his holy name we trust.

R. Exult, you just, in the Lord! Sing to him a new song.

Psalm Prayer

So that your people may walk in innocence, you came to us, Lord Jesus, and told us to be holy as God is holy. Help your children to love what is truly perfect, so that we may neither speak what is evil nor do what is wrong. Let us stand in your sight and celebrate with you God's love and justice.

(Antiphon all together)

Ant: The Lord will come from the holy place to save a people.

Reading: Song of Songs 2:8-14

Hark! My lover - here he comes springing across the mountains, leaping across the hills. My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. Here he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattices. My

lover speaks; he says to me, "Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come! For see, the winter is past, the rains are over and gone, The flowers appear on the earth, the time of pruning the vines has come, and the song of the dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines, in bloom, give forth fragrance. Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come! O my dove in the clefts of the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff, let me see you, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and you are lovely." The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 42: "Song of the Exile"

Please repeat refrain after cantor the first time and sing after each verse:

As a deer longs for running streams, so my soul longs for Thee, and my heart thirsts for the God of my life. When shall I go to see the face of God?

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Psalm Prayer

Lord, God of strength, you gave your Son victory over death. Direct your Church's fight against evil in the world. Clothe us with the weapons of light and unite us under the one banner of love, that we may receive our eternal reward.

Reading: Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out in those days and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." The Gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

Intercessions Respond: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Lord's Prayer

Kiss of Peace

Closing Prayer

Lord, hear the prayers of your people. May we who celebrate the birth of your Son among us rejoice in the gift of eternal life when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Dismissal

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

