

Welcome to Matins for **December 26<sup>th</sup>, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> in the season of Christmas - Epiphany**. The Service for Matins can be found on p131-141 in the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW). The Psalms for this evening are **Psalm 116 on page 272 and Psalm 48 on page 237**. The hymn is "**Let Us Now Our Voices Raise**" and **LBW #84**.

**PSALM 116**    (*The cantor will speak / sing the antiphon. The psalm will be spoken / sung in unison.*)

ANTIPHON

December 26 - St. Stephen's Day

*I see the | heavens opened,\*  
and the Son of Man standing at the right | hand of God.*

January 2, 7

*Come, you peoples | of the earth;\*  
drink from the wells | of salvation.*

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my | supplication,\*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I | called upon him.

<sup>2</sup> The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took | hold of me;\*  
I came to | grief and sorrow.

<sup>3</sup> Then I called upon the name | of the LORD:\*  
"O LORD, I pray you, | save my life."

<sup>4</sup> Gracious is the | LORD and righteous;\*  
our God is full | of compassion.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD watches o- | ver the innocent;\*  
I was brought very low, | and he helped me.

<sup>6</sup> Turn again to your rest, | O my soul.\*  
for the LORD has treat- | ed you well.

<sup>7</sup> For you have rescued my | life from death,\*  
my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling.

<sup>8</sup> I will walk in the presence | of the LORD\*  
in the land | of the living.

<sup>9</sup> I believed, even when I said, "I have been brought | very low."\*  
In my distress I said, "No one | can be trusted."

<sup>10</sup> How shall I re- | pay the LORD\*  
for all the good things he has | done for me?

<sup>11</sup> I will lift up the cup | of salvation\*  
and call upon the name | of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD\*  
in the presence of | all his people.

<sup>13</sup> Precious in the sight | of the LORD\*  
is the death | of his servants.

<sup>14</sup> O LORD, I | am your servant;\*  
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me | from my bonds.

<sup>15</sup> I will offer you the sacrifice | of thanksgiving\*  
and call upon the name | of the LORD.

<sup>16</sup> I will fulfill my vows | to the LORD\*  
in the presence of | all his people,

<sup>17</sup> in the courts of | the LORD's house,\*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. | Hallelujah!

## ANTIPHON

December 26 - St. Stephen's Day

*I see the | heavens opened,\*  
and the Son of Man standing at the right | hand of God.*

January 2, 7

*Come, you peoples | of the earth,\*  
drink from the wells | of salvation.*

**PSALM 48** *(The cantor will speak / sing the antiphon. The psalm will be spoken / sung in unison.)*

ANTIPHON

*Let Mount Zion be glad, and let the cities of Ju | dah rejoice,\*  
for the | Lord has come.*

- <sup>1</sup> Great is the LORD, and highly | to be praised;\*  
in the city of our God is his | holy hill.
- <sup>2</sup> Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the | hill of Zion,\*  
the very center of the world and the city of | the great king.
- <sup>3</sup> God is in her citadels;\*  
he is known to be | her sure refuge.
- <sup>4</sup> Behold, the kings of the | earth assembled\*  
and marched for- | ward together.
- <sup>5</sup> They looked and | were astounded;\*  
they retreated and | fled in terror.
- <sup>6</sup> Trembling | seized them there;\*  
they writhed like a woman in childbirth,  
like ships of the sea when the | east wind shatters them.
- <sup>7</sup> As we have heard, so have we seen,  
in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city | of our God;\*  
God has established | her forever.
- <sup>8</sup> We have waited in silence on your lovingkind- | ness, O God,\*  
in the midst | of your temple.
- <sup>9</sup> Your praise, like your name, O God, reaches | to the world's end;\*  
your right hand is | full of justice.
- <sup>10</sup> Let Mount Zion be glad and the cities of Ju- | dah rejoice,\*  
because | of your judgments.
- <sup>11</sup> Make the circuit of Zion; walk | round about her;\*  
count the number | of her towers.
- <sup>12</sup> Consider well her bulwarks; exam- | ine her strongholds;\*  
that you may tell those | who come after.

<sup>13</sup> This God is our God forev- | er and ever;\*  
he shall be our guide for- | evermore.

ANTIPHON

*Let Mount Zion be glad, and let the cities of Ju | dah rejoice,\*  
for the | Lord has come.*

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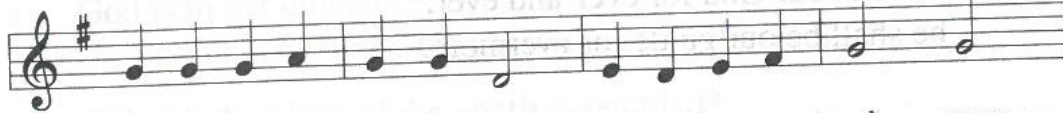
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This hymn is sung on December 26 - St. Stephen's Day



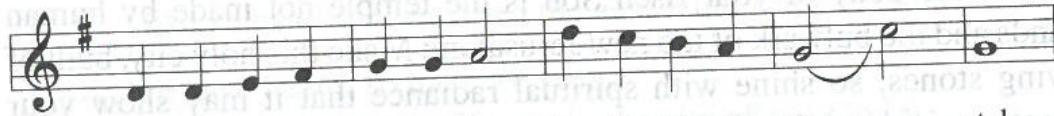
Let us now our voic-es raise, Wake the day with glad - ness;



God him-self to joy and praise Turns our hu - man sad - ness;



Joy that mar-tyrs won their crown, O-pen'd heav'n's bright por - tal,



When they laid the mor-tal down For the life im - mor - tal.

2 Never flinched they from the flame,  
From the torment never;  
Vain the tyrant's sharpest aim,  
Vain each fierce endeavor:  
For by faith they saw the land  
Decked in all its glory,  
Where triumphant now they stand  
With the victor's story.

3 Up and follow, Christians all!  
Press through toil and sorrow;  
Turn from fear and heed the call  
To a glorious morrow!  
Who will venture on the strife;  
Who will first begin it?  
Who will grasp the land of life?

Christians up and win it! [SBH 546, H82 237]

Text: St. Joseph the hymnographer, d. 883; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Tune: *Tempus adest floridum* from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

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This hymn is sung on January 2 and 7

## Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning



1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
3 Shall we not yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
fra - grance of E - dom and of - f'rings di - vine,  
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;  
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,  
Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.  
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.  
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?  
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.