

Welcome to Vespers for the **Tuesdays (and December 20th) in Advent**. The Service for Vespers can be found on p142-153 in the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW). The Psalms for this evening are **Psalm 85 found on page 254 and Psalm 94 on page 260**. The hymn is **#38**.

PSALM 85 (*The cantor will speak / sing the antiphon. The psalm will be spoken / sung in unison.*)

ANTIPHON

Shower, O heavens, | from above,
and let the skies | rain down righteousness.*

December 20 *The Lord will come from his | holy place*
to | save his people.*

¹ You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;*
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

² You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people*
and blotted out | all their sins.

³ You have withdrawn | all your fury*
and turned yourself from your wrathful | indignation.

⁴ Restore us then, O | God our Savior;*
let your anger de- | part from us.

⁵ Will you be displeased with | us forever?*

Will you prolong your anger from | age to age?

⁶ Will you not give us | life again,*
that your people may re- | joice in you?

⁷ Show us your mer- | cy, O LORD,*
and grant us | your salvation.

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying,*
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their | hearts to him.

⁹ Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰ Mercy and truth have | met together;*
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹ Truth shall spring up | from the earth,*
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

¹² The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,*
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness shall | go before him,*
and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

ANTIPHON

Shower, O heavens, | from above,
and let the skies | rain down righteousness.*

December 20 *The Lord will come from his | holy place*
to | save his people.*

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PSALM 94

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

ANTIPHON

God will grant justice to his | chosen ones
who cry to him | day and night.*

December 20 *Your God will | come with vengeance,*
he will | come to save you.*

¹ O LORD | God of vengeance,*
O God of vengeance, | show yourself.

² Rise up, O Judge | of the world;*
give the arrogant their | just deserts.

³ How long shall the wick- | ed, O LORD,*
how long shall the | wicked triumph?

⁴ They bluster | in their insolence;*
all evildoers are | full of boasting.

⁵ They crush your peo- | ple, O LORD,*
and afflict your | chosen nation.

⁶ They murder the widow | and the stranger*
and put the or- | phans to death.

⁷ Yet they say, "The LORD | does not see,*
the God of Jacob | takes no notice."

⁸ Consider well, you dullards a- | mong the people;*
when will you fools | understand?

⁹ He that planted the ear, does | he not hear?*

He that formed the eye, does | he not see?

¹⁰ He who admonishes the nations, will | he not punish?*

He who teaches all the world, has | he no knowledge?

¹¹ The LORD knows our | human thoughts;*
how like a puff of | wind they are.

¹² Happy are they whom you in- | struct, O Lord,*
whom you teach out | of your law;

- ¹³ to give them rest in | evil days,*
until a pit is dug | for the wicked.
- ¹⁴ For the LORD will not aban- | don his people,*
nor will he for- | sake his own.
- ¹⁵ For judgment will a- | gain be just,*
and all the true of heart will | follow it.
- ¹⁶ Who rose up for me a- | gainst the wicked?*
- Who took my part against the | evildoers?
- ¹⁷ If the LORD had not come | to my help,*
I should soon have dwelt in the | land of silence.
- ¹⁸ As often as I said, "My | foot has slipped,"*
your love, O | LORD, upheld me.
- ¹⁹ When many cares | fill my mind,*
your consolations | cheer my soul.
- ²⁰ Can a corrupt tribunal have any | part with you,*
one which frames evil | into law?
- ²¹ They conspire against the life | of the just*
and condemn the inno- | cent to death.
- ²² But the LORD has be- | come my stronghold,*
and my God the rock | of my trust.
- ²³ He will turn their wickedness back upon them
and destroy them in | their own malice;*
- the LORD our God | will destroy them.

ANTIPHON

God will grant justice to his | chosen ones
who cry to him | day and night.*

December 20 *Your God will | come with vengeance,*
he will | come to save you.*

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide; Come down, come
 2 O Morn - ing Star, O ra - diant Sun, When will our
 3 Sin's dread - ful doom up - on us lies; Grim death looms
 4 There shall we all our prais - es bring Ev - er to

down with might - y stride; Un - lock the gates, the doors break
 hearts be - hold your dawn? O Sun, a - rise; with - out your
 fierce be - fore our eyes. Oh, come, lead us with might - y
 you, our Sav - ior King; There shall we laud you and a -

down; Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
 light We grope in gloom and dark of night.
 hand From ex - ile to our prom - ised land.
 dore For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.