

Welcome to Vespers for the **Tuesdays (and December 20<sup>th</sup>) 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

*Showers, 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.*

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

<sup>2</sup> You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people\*  
and blotted out | all their sins.

<sup>3</sup> You have withdrawn | all your fury\*  
and turned yourself from your wrathful | indignation.

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

<sup>5</sup> Will you be displeased with | us forever?\*  
Will you prolong your anger from | age to age?

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

<sup>7</sup> Show us your mer- | cy, O LORD,\*  
and grant us | your salvation.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

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

<sup>10</sup> Mercy and truth have | met together;\*  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup> Truth shall spring up | from the earth,\*  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,\*  
and our land will | yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup> 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.*

<sup>1</sup> O LORD | God of vengeance,\*  
O God of vengeance, | show yourself.

<sup>2</sup> Rise up, O Judge | of the world;\*  
give the arrogant their | just deserts.

<sup>3</sup> How long shall the wick- | ed, O LORD,\*  
how long shall the | wicked triumph?

<sup>4</sup> They bluster | in their insolence;\*  
all evildoers are | full of boasting.

<sup>5</sup> They crush your peo- | ple, O LORD,\*  
and afflict your | chosen nation.

<sup>6</sup> They murder the widow | and the stranger\*  
and put the or- | phans to death.

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

<sup>8</sup> Consider well, you dullards a- | mong the people;\*  
when will you fools | understand?

<sup>9</sup> He that planted the ear, does | he not hear?\*

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

<sup>10</sup> He who admonishes the nations, will | he not punish?\*

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

<sup>11</sup> The LORD knows our | human thoughts;\*  
how like a puff of | wind they are.

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

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