

Welcome to Vespers for the **Wednesdays (and December 21st) 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 53 found on page 240 and Psalm 17 on page 221**. The hymn is **#35**.

PSALM 53 *(The cantor will speak / sing the antiphon. The psalm will be spoken / sung in unison.)*

ANTIPHON

Oh, that Israel's de | liverance
would come | out of Zion!*

December 21 *Say to daughter Zion, see, your sal | vation comes;*
his reward is with him, and his recom | pense before him.*

¹ The fool has said in his heart, "There | is no God."*
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts; there is none who does | any good.

² God looks down from heaven up- | on us all,*
to see if there is any who is wise, if there is one who seeks | after God.

³ Every one has proved faithless; all alike | have turned bad;*
there is none who does good; | no, not one.

⁴ Have they no knowledge, those | evildoers*
who eat up my people like bread and do not call | upon God?

⁵ See how greatly they tremble, such trembling as | never was;*
for God has scattered the bones of the enemy;
they are put to shame, because God has re- | jected them.

⁶ Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come | out of Zion!*
When God restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice and Isra- | el be glad.

ANTIPHON

Oh, that Israel's de | liverance
would come | out of Zion!*

December 21 *Say to daughter Zion, see, your sal | vation comes;*
his reward is with him, and his recom | pense before him.*

PSALM 17 (*The cantor will speak / sing the antiphon. The psalm will be spoken / sung in unison.*)

ANTIPHON

A | rise, O Lord;
deliver me | by your hand.*

December 21 *A shoot shall come out of the | stump of Jesse,*
and a branch shall grow out | of his roots.*

¹ Hear my plea of innocence, O LORD; give heed | to my cry;*
listen to my prayer, which does not come from | lying lips.

² Let my vindication come forth | from your presence;*
let your eyes be | fixed on justice.

³ Weigh my heart, summon | me by night,*
melt me down; you will find no impurit- | y in me.

⁴ I give no offense with my mouth as | others do;*
I have heeded the words | of your lips.

⁵ My footsteps hold fast to the ways | of your law;*
in your paths my feet | shall not stumble.

⁶ I call upon you, O God, for you will | answer me;*
incline your ear to me and | hear my words.

⁷ Show me your marvelous | lovingkindness,*
O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand
from those who rise | up against them.

⁸ Keep me as the apple | of your eye;*
hide me under the shadow | of your wings,

⁹ from the wicked | who assault me,*
from my deadly enemies | who surround me.

¹⁰ They have closed their | heart to pity,*
and their mouth | speaks proud things.

¹¹ They press me hard; now | they surround me,*
watching how they may cast me | to the ground,

¹² like a lion, greedy | for its prey,*
and like a young lion lurking in | secret places.

¹³ Arise, O LORD; confront them | bring them down;*
deliver me from the wicked | by your sword.

¹⁴ Deliver me, O LORD, | by your hand*
from those whose portion in life | is this world;

¹⁵ whose bellies you fill | with your treasure,*
who are well supplied with children and leave their wealth to their | little ones.

¹⁶ But at my vindication I shall | see your face;*
when I awake, I shall be satisfied, behold- | ing your likeness.

ANTIPHON

A | rise, O Lord;
deliver me | by your hand.*

December 21 *A shoot shall come out of the | stump of Jesse,*
and a branch shall grow out | of his roots.*

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Hark, the Glad Sound!

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody with various note values and rests, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. It features similar note values and rests in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing a steady harmonic foundation.

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. The treble staff ends with a double bar line, and the bass staff also concludes with a double bar line. The melody in the treble staff features a final cadence, and the bass staff provides a final harmonic resolution.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

