



# **Songs for the Savior: The Song of Simeon**

Midweek Advent

# **BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | York, Nebraska

*December 13, 2023*

## **THEME OF THE DAY: THE SONG OF SIMEON**

Simeon had received a promise from God that he would not die before he had seen God's promised Messiah. When that day finally arrived, Simeon not only saw the promised Messiah but even held him in his arms and sang a song of praise for he had seen God's salvation.

**Worship Leader**

Pastor Justin Wilkens

**Organist/Pianist**

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## **Acknowledgments**

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The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.  
**Amen.**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
**to sing praise to your name, O Most High,**

to herald your love in the morning,  
**your truth at the close of day.**

### **Hymn: 309 The Advent of Our King**

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|--|--|
| 1 The advent of our King<br>our prayers must now employ,<br>and we must hymns of welcome sing<br>in strains of holy joy.   | 4 As judge, on clouds of light,<br>he soon will come again<br>and his true members all unite<br>with him in heav'n to reign. |
| 2 The everlasting Son,<br>in flesh content to be,<br>himself a servant's form puts on<br>to set his servants free.         | 5 Before the dawning day<br>let sin's dark deeds be gone,<br>the old self all be put away,<br>the new self now put on.       |
| 3 O Zion's daughter, rise<br>to meet your lowly King,<br>nor let a faithless heart despise<br>the peace he comes to bring. | 6 All glory to the Son,<br>who comes to set us free,<br>with Father, Spirit, ever one<br>through all eternity.               |

Text: tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749  
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### **Confession**

CW 226

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**the maker of heaven and earth.**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
**we have sinned against you**  
**in our thoughts,**  
**in our words,**  
**in our deeds,**  
**and in all that we have not done.**  
**Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**  
**Deliver and restore us,**  
**that we may rest in peace.**

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ,  
and in him we are forgiven.

Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun,  
when we shall serve him in newness of life.

**Amen.**

### **Psalm: 85A LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer**

#### *Refrain*

LORD, in your mer - cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

#### *Tone*

You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people  
and covered / all their sins.

You set aside / all your wrath  
and turned from your fierce / anger.

Show us your unfailing / love, LORD,  
and grant us your sal- / vation. *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the / LORD says;  
he promises peace to his / people.  
Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him,  
that his glory may dwell / in our land.  
Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;  
righteousness and peace kiss each / other.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Text: Hal H. Hopson

Tune: Hal H. Hopson

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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## Prayer

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Reading

*Luke 2:28–32*

<sup>28</sup> Simeon took him into his arms and praised God. He said,  
<sup>29</sup> Lord, you now dismiss your servant in peace, according to  
your word,  
<sup>30</sup> because my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared before the face of all people,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your  
people Israel.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn: 311 Dawning Light of Our Salvation

- 1 Long in darkness Israel wandered;  
long in mortal shadows we  
walked in bondage and self-pity,  
trod in paths of sin and grief.  
In the prophets' words he told us,  
long the God of Israel spoke;  
he alone in strength would save us  
from the hands of all our foes. (Refrain)
- Ref Ev'ry valley be exalted!  
Ev'ry mountain be made plane!  
Crooked ways repent and straighten;  
all creation bend in praise!
- 2 He shall raise a mighty Savior;  
born of David's lineage, he  
comes in cov'nant love to claim us,  
from our sins to set us free.  
Light to those who dwell in darkness,  
life to those from death who flee,  
joy unto the earth, and gladness,  
to your pathways dawning peace! (Refrain)
- 3 Jesus, Lord, and mighty Savior,  
David's son and yet his King,  
dawning light of our salvation,  
of your saving pow'r we sing!  
Stand, O lame, and dance, ye broken;  
know the Savior's healing grace.  
Come, O deaf, and hear him singing;  
turn, O blind, behold his face! (Refrain)

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## Devotion

### Offering

#### Offering Hymn: 313 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

*sts. 1–2*

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.
  
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.

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### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: 315 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

*sts. 1–4*

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord,  
who has truly kept his word  
and at last to us did send  
Christ, the sinner's help and friend.
- 2 What the fathers most desired,  
what the prophets' heart inspired,  
what they longed for many' \_ a year  
stands fulfilled in glory here.
- 3 Abram's promised great reward,  
Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—  
him of twofold race behold—  
truly came, as long foretold.
- 4 Savior, hear my welcome cry—  
loud hosannas lifted high!  
King of glory, enter in;  
cleans my soul of ev'ry sin.

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