

## Wonderful Counselor

### As We Gather

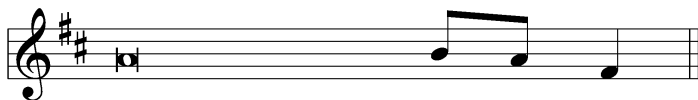
During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God’s Son, who was given the name *Jesus*—a Hebrew name that means “God saves.” However, in addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles that describe something about His person or work. We will examine the four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace—and will study how each of these titles describes something about who Jesus is and what He did for our salvation.

Consider how God rescues us from the cunning counsel of the devil and blesses us with the wonderful counsel of His Son, whose Word of truth sets us free from sin and its damning deception. Jesus is given the title Wonderful Counselor because His Word rescues us from the lies of the devil and our own self-deception and leads us into God’s wisdom, which results in our salvation.

### Opening Sentences

*Psalm 51:15, 70:1*

**L** (sung) O Lord, open my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.

**L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.



## + Psalmody +

### Dec 4 Psalm

*Psalm 119:129–136; antiphon: v. 129*



**P** Your testimonies are | wonderful;\*  
therefore my soul | keeps them.

**C** **The unfolding of Your | words gives light;\***  
**it imparts understanding to the | simple.**

I open my | mouth and pant,\*  
because I long for Your com- | mandments.

**Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,\***  
**as is Your way with those who | love Your name.**

Keep steady my steps according to Your | promise,\*  
and let no iniquity get dominion | over me.

**Redeem me from man's op- | pression,\***  
**that I may keep Your | precepts.**

Make Your face shine upon Your | servant,\*  
and teach me Your | statutes.

**My eyes shed | streams of tears,\***  
**because people do not | keep Your law.**

**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.**

Your testimonies are | wonderful;\*  
therefore my soul | keeps them.

*Sit*

**Dec 4 Hymn: 412 The People That in Darkness Sat (see hymnal)**

## + Readings +

### First Reading

*Isaiah 9:1–2, 6–7*

**P** A reading from Isaiah, the ninth chapter.

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called

**Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading

*Romans 11:32–36*

**P** A reading from Romans, the eleventh chapter.

For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

“For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been his counselor?”

“Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be repaid?”

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Third Reading

Matthew 7:24–29

**P** A reading from Matthew, the seventh chapter.

“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

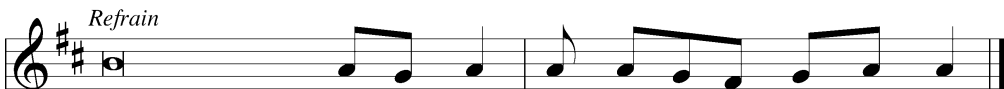
**C** Thanks be to God.

### Responsory

LSB 230



- L** 1 Behold, the days  
are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise  
up for David a righ-teous Branch.
- 2 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will  
dwell se - cure - ly.
- 3 Glory be to the  
Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.



**C** This is the name  
by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righ-teous-ness.

Hymn: 334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (see hymnal)

+ Homily +

## + Prayer +

*Stand*

Kyrie

*LSB 233*



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

### Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

### Introduction to Collects

*Psalm 102:1*



**L** O Lord, hear my prayer.



**C** And let my cry come to You.

### Collect of the Day

**P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Shine into our hearts, O Lord, and illumine every part of our lives, so that we will be ready to rejoice at Your birth and be guiding lights for those who do not yet know Your saving grace and forgiveness; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Wonderful Counselor, we come to You, Lord Jesus, thankful that You have enlightened us with the counsel of Your wonderful gracious word of forgiveness for all our sins. Help us, we pray, as we interact with people who may be entrapped by their sin, not knowing Your full forgiveness, and unable to rejoice at the anniversary of Your birth. Wonderful Counselor, use us and all we have, to bring others to hear and believe the Good News; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving

#### Collect for Peace

**L** (sung) O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



#### Benedicamus

LSB 234



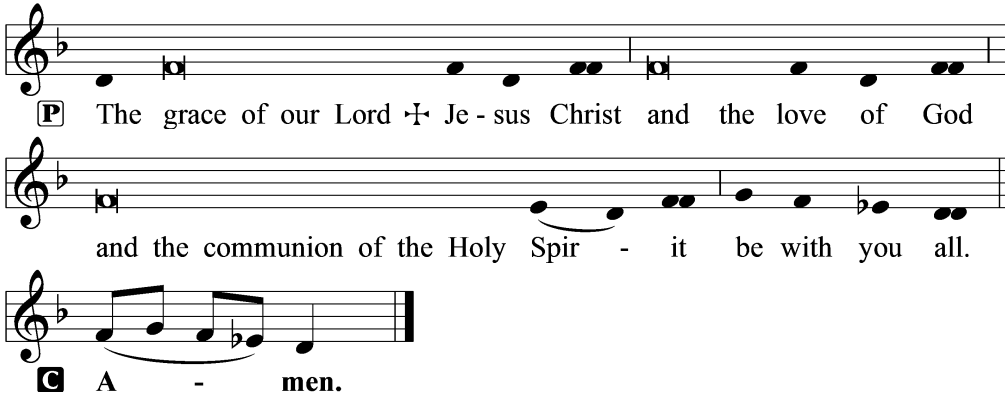
**L** Let us bless the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction


LSB 234



**P** The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God  
and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.

**G** A - men.

## Hymn to Depart: 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!

From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;

Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven Text and tune: Public domain

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