



*And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, declared the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "All the Gentiles shall be blessed in you."
Galatians 3:8*

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous.

P Wait upon the Lord. That's what Abraham did, even though he was about a hundred years old.

C And Sarah's womb was barren.

P Still, Abraham waited in faith.

C Fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

P Wait upon the Lord.

C Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord with faith!

HYMN

CW 1

The advent of our King our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing in strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son incarnate deigns to be;
Himself a servant's form puts on to set his servants free.

O Zion's Daughter, rise to meet your lowly King,
Nor let a faithless heart despise the peace he comes to bring.

As Judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come again,
And his true members all unite with him in heav'n to reign.

All glory to the Son who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever One, through all eternity.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

C We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and sometimes with you. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray from your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous, we ask you, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and give us the faith to wait patiently for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P Believe and receive the good news! God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all people. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Heavenly Father, we wait for you.

C More than watchmen wait for the morning.

P You are the light for our paths,

C Lead us in your truth and teach us.

P For you are the God of our salvation.

C For you we wait all the day long.

P O God, inspire us to wait for you faithfully.

C Serve you joyfully.

P And give to others generously.

C Gracious Lord, grant healing for the sick.

P And courage for the fainthearted.

C And hope for the discouraged.

P And great clarity for all in the valley of decision.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING ... Genesis 17:1-9

EPISTLE READING ... Romans 4:13-21

P Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

C Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. Hallelujah!

CW 61

♪ Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful all you nations rise, join the triumph of the skies.
With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem,
Hark the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."

GOSPEL READING ... Matthew 1:16-25

SERMON HYMN

CW 4

Lift up your heads, you mighty gates! Behold, the King of Glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation he will bring, therefore rejoice and gladly sing:
To God the Father raise your joyful songs of praise!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in and new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise for word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you; here, Lord, abide!
Oh, enter with your saving grace; show me your kind and friendly face.
Your Holy Spirit guide us on until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame we offer to your name.

SERMON

WAIT ON THE LORD WITH FAITH

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your 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

BENEDICTION

P May God give us the faith of Abraham, the hope of Isaiah, the joy of Elizabeth, and the gratitude of Zechariah. God will make us strong and courageous.

C **As we wait upon the Lord! Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

CW 2

Savior of the nations, come; virgin's Son, make here your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood; by the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh, woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child of the virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned, still to be in heav'n enthroned.