

Stand

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

Psalmody

Psalm

Psalm 80

- L**¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
C² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!
L³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!
C⁴ O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
L⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.
C⁶ You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.
L⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!
C⁸ You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.
L⁹ You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.
C¹⁰ The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.
L¹¹ It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.
C¹² Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
L¹³ The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.
C¹⁴ Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,
L¹⁵ the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.
C¹⁶ They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!
L¹⁷ But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!
C¹⁸ Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!
L¹⁹ Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Sit

850 God of Grace and God of Glory

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
 On Your people pour Your pow'r;
 Crown Your ancient Church's story;
 Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
 For the facing of this hour,
 For the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
 Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
 From the fears that long have bound us
 Free our hearts to faith and praise.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
 For the living of these days,
 For the living of these days.
- 3 Cure Your children's warring madness;
 Bend our pride to Your control;
 Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,

Rich in things and poor in soul.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
 Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,
 Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.
 4 Save us from weak resignation
 To the evils we deplore;
 Let the gift of Your salvation
 Be our glory evermore.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
 Serving You whom we adore,
 Serving You whom we adore.

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878–1969

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Reading

2 Kings 17:1–8, 13–14, 18, 22–23

L A reading from 2 Kings, chapter 17.

¹In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah began to reign in Samaria over Israel, and he reigned nine years. ²And he did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, yet not as the kings of Israel who were before him. ³Against him came up Shalmaneser king of Assyria. And Hoshea became his vassal and paid him tribute. ⁴But the king of Assyria found treachery in Hoshea, for he had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore the king of Assyria shut him up and bound him in prison. ⁵Then the king of Assyria invaded all the land and came to Samaria, and for three years he besieged it.

⁶In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria, and he carried the Israelites away to Assyria and placed them in Halah, and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

⁷And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods ⁸and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced.

¹³Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and every seer, saying, “Turn from your evil ways and keep my commandments and my statutes, in accordance with all the Law that I commanded your fathers, and that I sent to you by my servants the prophets.”

¹⁴But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

¹⁸Therefore the LORD was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only.

²²The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them, ²³until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory (Advent)

LSB 230

L Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

L In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Sermon

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Psalm 80 is thought to have been in response to the reading this evening. No king of the Northern Kingdom was described as “he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord”. Hoshea was no exception. In a vain attempt to preserve Israel, Hoshea became a subject of the much more powerful king of Assyria. When a less powerful king arose in Assyria, Hoshea attempted to free himself and the Northern Kingdom, Israel, but chose too weak an ally, the king of Egypt. The Assyrian king attacked and destroyed Samaria. The sins of the Northern Kingdom led to their exile. Some fled to Jerusalem in Judah to pray for God to restore of their nation, the land God had promised to their fathers.

Everything about Hoshea’s revolt was wrong. He was the wrong king, who picked the wrong fight, against the wrong enemy, and asked the wrong ally for help. Without a doubt, Hoshea thought he had the answers. Hoshea and all the kings of Israel thought they knew best and didn’t. Can you imagine this conversation in Hoshea’s head? “I’m smart and strong, and with a little clever international politicking—I can defeat this enemy, Assyria, on my own.” Not so. Assyria was so much more of a monster than Israel could handle, even with Egypt’s help, and they were chewed up and spit out. And after Hoshea’s efforts failed, then there was only one choice for Israel, turn back to God who had redeemed them in the past. In the Psalmist’s words verses 1-3 “Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us! *Restore* us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!”

There are times in our lives when we are like Hoshea. We get ourselves into trouble, doing things on our own, following our own wishes and desires. And often, we just make a bigger mess trying to get ourselves out of trouble. We make our plans, sometimes without thought to God’s will and purpose in our lives. We pick friends and allies against opponents. We sometimes think, “I’ll make all the right moves. I can make things happen to get what I want, and everything will be just fine.” We build our own kingdoms with that unholy trinity of Me, Myself and I, and it all comes crashing down. The monsters of sin, sickness, and death eventually chew us up and spit us out.

Since the Garden of Eden, sin has corrupted our hearts. We want to do good but end up sinning, making a mess. We put God aside. We wander and lose heart. We easily get angry. We’re a sinful mess. Sometimes all we can do is lament verses 4-6: “O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure. You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

There is good news. In the middle of our lament, in the middle of our mess, the faithfulness of God remains, and He restores his people. God is faithful to fulfill his word, and His word for you is love.

Bask in the steadfast love, the loving faithfulness of Yahweh your God. Listen again to the psalmist in verses 7–10: “Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved! You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.”

God rescued His tender vine, Israel, from death and slavery in Egypt. He prospered them where he planted them. God rescues us from sin, death, and the devil. God restores us when we sin, as he did with Israel. God’s plan from before creation was to rescue us, you and me, by sending Jesus to die for the sins of the whole world. Not to enable us to sin, but to save us from our sins. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we repent, we turn back to God, and God restores us. God hears our prayers. Verses 14-15 “Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.”

God took care of the mess that was His people. Israel would no longer exist. Only the Southern Kingdom, Judah would be restored. And from Judah would come God’s salvation, at just the right time. Kingdoms came

and went. But God's steadfast love remains. God's love that sent Jesus to be born in Bethlehem, live a perfect life, die on the cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world, and be raised from the death, to conquer sin, death, and the devil. You have been purchased and redeemed by the Blood of Jesus. Your sins, your messes, are forgiven.

By the cross and empty tomb, Jesus Christ saves and restores you and me and all his people. In the midst of our lament and mess, God is faithful to restore. Psalm 80 ends:

Let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself! Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name! *Restore* us, O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved! (vv 17–19, emphasis added)

The words of the Psalmist came to life in the manger! Amen

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Canticle

Stand

L Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

933 My Soul Rejoices

1 My soul rejoices,
 My spirit voices—
 Sing the greatness of the Lord!
 For God my Savior
 Has shown me favor—
 Sing the greatness of the Lord!
 With praise and blessing,
 Join in confessing
 God, who is solely
 Mighty and holy—
 O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
 His mercy surely
 Shall rest securely
 On all who fear Him,
 Love and revere Him—
 O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

2 His arm now baring,
 His strength declaring—
 Sing the greatness of the Lord!
 The proud He scatters,
 Their rule He shatters—
 Sing the greatness of the Lord!
 Oppression halted;
 The meek exalted.
 Full are the hungry;
 Empty, the wealthy—
 O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
 Here is the token
 All that was spoken
 To Abr'ham's offspring

God is fulfilling—

O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

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Sit

Offering

Prayer

Kneel/Stand

Kyrie

LSB 233

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

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.

Collects

Prayer

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

L O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day

Collect for Peace

L 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.

C Amen.

Stand

Benedicamus

LSB 234

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 234

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.**357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain
- ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!
- 2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain
- 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain
- 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain
- 5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

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Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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