



The middle of the night
is the beginning of the day.
The middle of need
is the beginning of the light.

*O Lord of light, who made the stars,
O Dawn, by whom we see the way,
O Christ, redeemer of the world:
Come now and listen as we pray!*

Smaller than the small
I am that still center
within you
that needle's eye
through which all the threads
of the universe are drawn.

*O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,
When will our hearts behold your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without your light
We grope in gloom and dark of night.*

Perhaps you think you know me
but you do not know me.

Out of my soul's depth to thee my cries have sounded:
Let thine ears my complaints receive, on just fear grounded.
Lord, should'st thou weigh our faults, who's not confounded?

Mine is the voice
that sings out of the voiceless
night, that rises
like music out of the root
of the dark thorn, out of the lucid
throat of the fountain.

Be not afraid I am with thee, tremble not for I am thy God!

Perhaps you think you know me
but you do not know me.

Elijah came to Ahab, who had built a temple to the false gods, and said, "As the Lord the God of Israel lives, whom I serve faithfully, there shall be neither dew nor rain these years, except by my word." The famine which followed was severe and unrelenting. Elijah was forced to flee and hide.

In the third year of the drought, the word of the Lord came to Elijah, saying, "Go, present yourself again to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth." So Elijah went to present himself to Ahab.

When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, "Is it you, you troubler of Israel?" He answered, "I have not troubled Israel; but you have, and your whole house, because you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the false gods."

*Ab, thou poor world, thou cheatest me,
That I confess unfeignedly,
Yet in thee seek my pleasure.*

*False world, thou art but idle show,
Thy splendour fades, as well I know,
Thy joys have briefest measure.*

*Thy wealth, thine honors manifold, In need, in death, no comfort hold,
Thy gold is naught but tinsel gold, Be thou, O Lord, my treasure.*

And so Elijah called Ahab and the false prophets to Mount Carmel, where the people gathered to see which was the true god. After building an altar, the 450 prophets of the false gods called out, crying aloud and, as was their custom, cutting themselves with swords and lances until blood gushed out over them. As midday passed, they raved on, but there was no voice, no answer, and no response.

Then Elijah came near and said simply, "O Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known that you are God in Israel, that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your request. Answer me, O Lord, answer me, so that this people may know that you, O Lord, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back."

Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the altar and all the offerings. All of the false prophets were destroyed. When the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord indeed is God; the Lord indeed is God."

*It is of Jehovah's loving-kindnesses that we are not consumed,
Because his compassions fail not. They are new ev'ry morn; Great is thy faithfulness.
Jehovah is my portion, saith my soul; Therefore will I hope in him.
Jehovah is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.
It is good that a man should hope and quietly wait for the salvation of Jehovah.
It is of Jehovah's kindnesses that we are not consumed.*

Please stand

Thus says the Lord: Answer, O people!

Of what are you so afraid?
Against whom do you lock your deadbolts,
set your car alarms,
wire your windows and gates?
From whom do you avert your eyes?
All: Answer, O people!

When you bought the gun
most precious metal
whom did you envision at the end of the
barrel?
All: Answer, O people!

Hear, O people, the fear of your replies!
Examine your history,
unclench your body,
excise your malignant suspicions,
suck out the poison of your privilege.
All: Answer, O people!

For I tell you:
If you return to me,
if you remove the headline news from your eyes,
and do not waver,
if you swear
I trust in God; I trust that all are made in God's image;
I shall not fear that which is not worthy of fear,

then the windows will be flung wide, and
the gates will move on their too tight hinges,
then the yearning for forgiveness and mercy can be pruned,
then the way of compassion and justice can flower.
Shalom awaits!

All: Shalom awaits!

*Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
Visit us with thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.*

**All: Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.**

Choir Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit; Let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Men Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all thy life receive;
Women Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore thy temples leave.
All Thee we would be always blessing, Serve thee as thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing, Glory in thy perfect love.

Please turn to face the cross as it is processed, turning again to face the front as it passes.

All Finish then thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Please sit

Smaller than the small

I am the seed
of all that is known
and unknown.

I am the root
and stem of meaning,
the ground

of wonder. Through me,
each leading
tendrill of desire
is drawn,
and breathes in
consciousness of Being.

Then Elijah, knowing that his life was now in danger, went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough: now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."

*Hear my cry, O God;
From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee, when my heart is overwhelmed:
lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
For Thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.
I will trust in the covert of Thy wings. Alleluia.*

Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have broken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by."

My faith
is a great weight
hung on a small wire,
as the spider
hangs her baby
on a thin web.

*I lift up my eyes to the hills,
from whence does my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made the heav'n and the earth.*

*He will not let your foot be mov'd,
He'll keep you from all harm.
He who keeps Israel,
Will neither slumber nor sleep.*

Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

When you open
your ears to my voice
and listen with all your hearing
and listen again,
no subtle joining of notes and words,
no vertical song is heard
but silence is singing.

PRELUDE

Then there came a still, small voice that said, "Why are you still out here, Elijah?"

The voice whispers
So softly
That the soul pauses,
Making no noise,
And strives for these melodies,
Distant, sighing, like faintest breath,
And all the being is still to hear.

*Shine with radiant light
within your earthly circle
understanding not.*

*Shine with radiant light
in the soft and surrounding
Mystery of All.*

Mine is the secret
that lies hidden
like the lustrous pearl

gleaming
within its oyster

the deepest secret
the secret
hidden within the secret.

Were my eyes to see you come down,
they would cease to weep.
Rain him down you clouds—
the one whom earth has longed for.

Earth, you have given us only thorns.
Be open now and bring forth
the only flower
in which you yourself may flourish.

Please stand

All **Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!**

Women **Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Men** **Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
All** **Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

Pulpit Side **To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
Organ Side** **In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
All** **We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**

All **Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

Please sit

Don't say, don't say there is no water
to solace the dryness at our hearts.
I have seen

the fountain springing out of the rock wall
and you drinking there. And I too
before your eyes

found footholds and climbed
to drink the cool water.

MOSAIC

The woman of that place, shading her eyes
frowned as she watched – but not because
she grudged the water,

only because she was waiting
to see we drank our fill and were
refreshed.

*There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu: Alleluia.*

*For in this rose containéd was
Heav'n and earth in little space: Res Miranda (Marvelous thing!)*

*By that rose we may well see
There be one God in Persons Three: Pares forma. (Of equal form.)*

*Then leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyous birth: Transeamus. (To heavenly things!)*

Don't say, don't say there is no water.
That fountain is there among its scalloped
green and gray stones,

it is still there and always there
with its quiet song and strange power
to spring in us,
up and out through the rock.

*Round our skiff be God's aboutness, ere she try the deeps of sea.
Seashell frail for all her stoutness unless Thou her helmsman be.*

The Creator, the Wisdom of God, draws near,
The mist of the prophets' promise is dispersed.
Joy clears the skies, Truth is resplendent, The dark shadows are dispelled.
The gates of Eden are opened, Adam dances in exultation:
Our Creator and God wills to fashion us anew.

All **O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

Women **O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud, and majesty, and awe.**

All **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

Men **O come, strong branch of Jesse, free
Your own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell your people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.**

All **Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

All **O come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.**

Marvelous Truth, confront us
at every turn
in every guise, iron ball,
egg, dark horse, shadow,
cloud
of breath on the air.

Thrust close your smile
that we know you, terrible joy.

About three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

*Be not afraid I am with thee,
tremble not for I am thy God!
I strengthen thee for I am thy help,
I uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.
Tremble not for I am thy God,
tremble not for I am your God!
By redemption thou art saved, you are mine!
Fear not for you are called and named, you are mine!*

Of everything that is,
of every word that is spoken
on the lips
in the heart,
of every thought and hope and wish,
I am the silent witness.

Perhaps you think you know me
but you do not know me.

*O Lord of light, Who made the stars
O Dawn, by whom we see the way,
O Christ, redeemer of the world:
Turn now our darkness into day!*

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is the beginning of the day.
The middle of need
is the beginning of the light.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Advent Devotion ☩ December 12, 2004, 7:00 PM

Adult Choir

Soprano: Sharon Andersen*, Lois Eid, Sandy Hoverson*, Amy Johnson, Pam Kildahl*, Mary Ellen Olson, Stella Townsend, Victoria Wilgocki** • *Alto:* Carol Johnson, Vicki Mann, Korla Masters, Susan Nixon, Allene Qualheim, Laura Simms*, Stephanie Sulzbach • *Tenor:* Paul Eid, Josef Fortier, Peter Johnson, Mike Mann*, Bob Peterson • *Bass:* Clifford Brown*, Bill Capman, Bob Hulteen, John Sulzbach, Wayne Vetter

**in absentia, **guest*

Trinity Singers

Soprano: Carolyn Buzza, Andrea Hansen, Stephanie Sulzbach • *Alto:* Jane Aldrich, Jody Liedholm, Liz Rudrud • *Tenor:* Bob Aldrich, Tim Buzza, Paul Ramsour • *Bass:* David Broberg, Peter Johnson

Participants

Chris Ganglehoff, Flute; Don Lang, Reader; Mary Lindell, Reader; Julie Lindorff, Organ and Piano; Lowell Prescott, Conductor; Andrea Stern, Harp; John Sulzbach, Recorder; Jeannie Trelles, Cello; Holly Welch, Cover Art. Special thanks to Scott Prescott and the Chaska Middle School Music Department.

Music (in order of appearance)

LBW 323 O Lord of Light, Who Made the Stars • *Ab, Thou Poor World*, Johannes Brahms, Text: Anon. tr. Albert G. Latham, Copyright © 1933 Oxford University Press • *His Compassions Fail Not*, Leland B. Sateren, Text: Lamentations 3:22-26, Copyright © 1952, assigned to A.M.S.I. 1977 • *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*, Hyfrydol, arr. David Cherwien • *From the End of the Earth*, Alan Hovhaness, Text: Psalm 61:1-4, Copyright © 1961 by C. F. Peters Corporation • *I Lift Up My Eyes*, Daniel Moe, Text: Psalm 121, Copyright © MCMLV by Mercury Music Corporation • *Prelude, J. S. Bach* • *Shine With Radiant Light*, Lowell Prescott, Text: Hildegard of Bingen, tr. LP, Copyright © 2000 Lowell Prescott • *LBW 526, Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* • *Mosaic*, Andrea Stern • *There Is No Rose of Such Virtue*, John Joubert, Text: Medieval • *Round Our Skiff Be God's Aboutness*, Kathy Wonson Eddy, Text: Folk song text from the Hebrides • *LBW 34, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* • *Be Not Afraid*, Knut Nystedt, Text: Isaiah 41:10, 43:1, Copyright © 1995 by Norsk Musikforlag.

Readings have been selected and edited from many sources. Substantial portions of the following works have been quoted: *The Canticle of the Void*, Paul Murray, Copyright © 1991 Paul Murray • *Oracle*, Victoria Wilgocki, Copyright © 2003 Victoria Wilgocki • *Small Wire*, Anne Sexton, Copyright © 1975 Loring Conant, Jr. • *The Black Riders—(39)*, Stephen Crane, Copyright © Unavailable • *The Fountain and Matins*, Denise Levertov, Copyright © 1966 Denise Levertov Goodman. Additional texts from old carols, Thomas Campion, John of the Cross, and parts of the Orthodox liturgy collected by Larry L. Fleming. Scripture readings are condensed and/or paraphrased from 1 Kings 17-19, and Matthew 27:46-50.

The free will offering will be used in support of the music program at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. A reception featuring cranberry steamed pudding immediately follows the service.