

EVERLASTING FATHER

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.

Today we consider why Jesus is called “Father” even though He is the eternal Son of the Father. Our Everlasting Father rules over creation and His people like a loving father and His kingdom is eternal. What great love He has for us, and what comfort this gives us, especially as we face trials and suffering in this world.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

HYMN #900

"Jesus! Name of Wonderous Love"



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth
5 Je - sus! On - ly name that's giv'n Un - der all the might - y heav'n



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo - ple save."
Where-by those to sin en - slaved Burst their fet - ters and are saved.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt. Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.

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.

C 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.

P 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.

P When Isaiah looked forward to our Lord's coming, he said that His kingdom would be upheld "from this time forth and forevermore." Today we look beyond present turmoil to eternal joy evermore.

HYMN #384

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

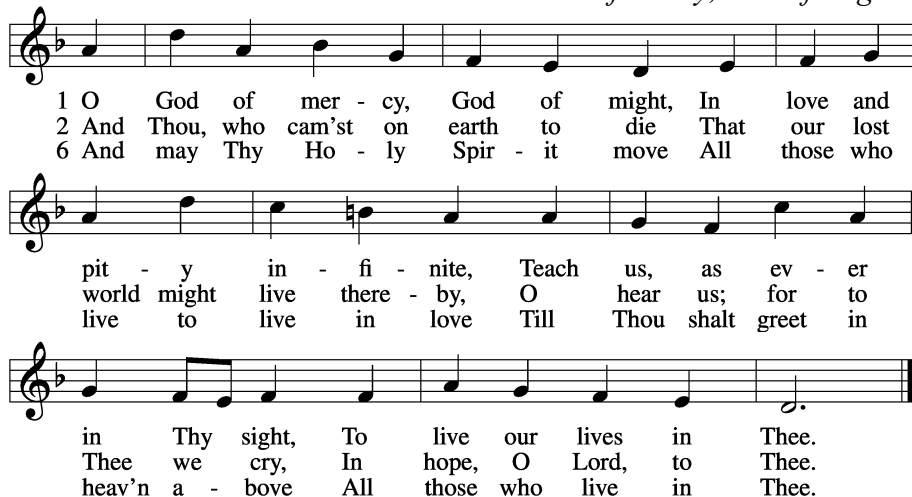
Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348–c. 413; (st. 1): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–77 Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** The Everlasting Father rules over all but also tenderly cares for His people. Let us therefore confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.
- C** **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**
- P** By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.
- C** Amen.

HYMN #852

"O God of Mercy, God of Might"



1 O God of mer - cy, God of might, In love and
2 And Thou, who cam'st on earth to die That our lost
6 And may Thy Ho - ly Spir - it move All those who
pit - y in - fi - nite, Teach us, as ev - er
world might live there - by, O hear us; for to
live to live in love Till Thou shalt greet in
in Thy sight, To live our lives in Thee.
Thee we cry, In hope, O Lord, to Thee.
heav'n a - bove All those who live in Thee.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt. Tune: Samuel Howard, 1710–82

PSALM

Psalm 2; antiphon: v. 7

- P** I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You.
Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?
- C** **The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His anointed, saying,**
- P** “Let us burst Their bonds apart and cast away Their cords from us.”
- C** **He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.**
- P** Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying,
- C** **“As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.”**
- P** I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You.
- C** **Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession.**
- P** You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”
- C** **Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth.**
- P** Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
- C** **Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled.**
- P** Blessèd are all who take refuge in Him.
- 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. I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You.**

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:15–20

- P** A reading from Colossians, the first chapter.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,

that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

THIRD READING

John 14:1–11

P A reading from John, the fourteenth chapter.

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY FOR ADVENT

Jeremiah 23:5a, 6

P 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.

P 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.

P 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.

CATECHISM

The Second Article

- P** What does it mean that we believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord?
- C** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

SERIES HYMN #412

"The People That in Darkness Sat"



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
 2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
 3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
 4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
 na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
 son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
 last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
 har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
 pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
 God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

His righteous government and pow'r Shall over all extend;
 On judgment and on justice based,

His reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray, And make us Thine alone,
 Who with the Father ever art

And Holy Spirit, one, And Holy Spirit, one.

Text: John Morison, 1749-98, alt. Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561

SERMON

“Everlasting Father”

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN #331

"The Advent of Our King"



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
△ 6 All glo - ry to the Son, Who comes to set us free,



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
With Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, alt. Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-76

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PRAYER FROM SUNDAY

- P** Lord Jesus Christ,
C we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation;
P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

- P** Show us the reality of eternity with You, O God.
C Help us look beyond our personal problems of this day to that everlasting joy in Your presence that awaits us by Your gracious invitation;
P through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

- C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

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.

BENEDICTION

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C Amen.

HYMN #352

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly,
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - ya year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

Bruise for me the serpent's head That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.

Then when You will come again As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face, Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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