

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM 96

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new **song**; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole **earth**.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his **Name**; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to **day**.
- 3 Declare his glory among the **nations** *
and his wonders among all **peoples**.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be **praised**; *
he is more to be feared than all **gods**.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but **idols**; *
but it is the LORD who made the **heavens**.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his **presence**! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his **sanctuary**!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the **peoples**; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and **power**.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his **Name**; *
bring offerings and come into his **courts**.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of **holiness**; *
let the whole earth tremble **before him**.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is **King**! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; /
he will judge the peoples with **equity**."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; /
let the sea thunder and all that is **in it**; *
let the field be joyful and all that is **therein**.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he **comes**, *
when he comes to judge the **earth**.
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- 13 He will judge the world with **righteousness** *
and the peoples with his **truth**.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael our Presiding Bishop; Daniel, our

bishop; and Suz, our priest; that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Joseph, our President, Henry, our Governor and all who serve in the Congress and the Courts; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially for Dot and Bill, Violet, Frieda Wald, Carolyn Foster, Ann and Fred Hoffman, Kris, Betty Carter, Moira, Maria Stamey, Robbie Hughes, Gilbert and Harriette, Jimmy Robertson, Jenn, Doug and Linda, Laura, Joel Lindler, Deepak, Lanita, Paul, Lucy, Barb Witmer, Jerome Cribb, Barbara Cobb and family, the people of Ukraine and Russia, and the people of Haiti, especially our siblings in Cange and Bois Joli *[those named below]*

Add prayers for
the sick, those
who suffer and
those in any
trouble.

Person to be prayed for	Person requesting prayer	Contact information for person requesting prayer

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Roy Hanks.

Add prayers for those who have died.	Person to be prayed for	Person requesting prayer	Contact information for person requesting prayer

Grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**