

## **The Hymn of the Day**

During our worship service, we have a formal dialogue with the Word of God. We begin the dialogue with the Prayer of the Day. God responds to this prayer through the three Scripture readings: the First Reading, the Second Reading, and the Gospel Reading. And then God responds through the spoken Word of the sermon. After we hear the Word of God, we respond to this Word by praising God one more time with the Hymn of Praise.

Hymns are songs that are sung as prayers to God. The hymns echo the faith of our forebears through these songs that were written and sung for many generations

The Hymn of the Day is usually chosen for the words in its lyrics. The hymn sings about the message that we have just heard through the Scriptures and the sermon.

Read the Scripture readings for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent (December 20<sup>th</sup>).

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; and Luke 1:26-38.

Do any hymns or secular songs come to mind for you when you read these passages? What are they?

Try using one of those songs as a prayer to God.

Close with the Prayer of the Day for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent:

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may hear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**