

December 20, 2023
18th Day of Advent

Titus 2:11-15

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. It trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, as we wait for the happy fulfillment of our hope in the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

He gave himself for us to set us free from every kind of lawlessness and to purify for himself a people who are truly his, who are eager to do good. So, communicate these things with the sort of exhortation or rebuke that carries full authority. Don't let anyone look down on you.

New English Translation of the New Testament.

We're at the darkest time of the year. At 10:27 PM tomorrow night is the winter solstice, the longest night and when the earth turns toward longer days. But in this darkness, we have hope. Not of longer days, more light, but of the greatest light of all, Jesus, the Light of the World.

As we wait and hope we pray:

“Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

When this old world drew on toward night, you came, but not in splendor bright,
As not a monarch, but the child of Mary, blessed mother mild.

At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
all things on earth with one accord, like those in heav'n shall call you Lord.

Come in your holy might we pray, redeem us for eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.” Amen!

Creator of the Stars of Night ELW 245, Augsburg Fortress, 2006.

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