



Sunday, December 1, 2024
First Sunday of Advent

Service Theme
**A REAL CHRISTMAS REQUIRES
REMEMBERING WHY CHRIST CAME**

It is easy to get so caught up in the imagery—a tiny newborn baby, lying in the straw filled manger under a star-filled sky—that we forget the why. Why did the Son of God come into our world and take on human flesh? So that he might die as the sacrifice for our sins. One Christmas carol puts it this way. “Neither crib nor cross refuses, all he suffers for your good to redeem you by his blood.” Advent marks the start of a new Church Year. We begin at the end, watching Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, knowing full well that he would be killed before the end of the week. The events of Palm Sunday serve as a microcosm for all Jesus’ work, proving the Son of God was willing to humble himself and endure anything for our salvation. That is precisely why Christ came. And a real Christmas requires remembering why Christ came.

327 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327 sts. 1, Ref, 2-3



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, who or - ders
3 O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to your

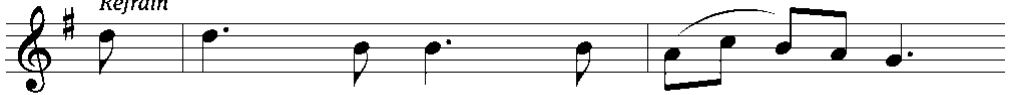


cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; to us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times once



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
gave the Law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent., alt
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation and Lighting of the Advent Candles

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming again. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

C: We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us know what day that will be.

M: We hear his call to watch.

C: We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Order of Service – Service of the Word

(From the Old Christian Worship Hymnal, page 38)

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give us strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

1st Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14–16 (EHV)

The LORD promised that a descendant of King David would be our righteous Savior.

¹⁴Listen, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the good promises that I have spoken to the house of Israel and concerning the house of Judah.

¹⁵In those days and at that time,

I will cause a righteous Branch to grow up from David's line. He will establish justice and righteousness on earth.

¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely.

This is what she will be called:

The Lord Our Righteousness.

Psalm 24

Read Responsively

M: The earth is the LORD's and everything that fills it,

C: the world and all who live in it,

M: because he founded it on the seas,

C: and he established it on the rivers.

M: Who may go up to the mountain of the LORD?

C: Who may stand in his holy place?

M: He who has clean hands and a pure heart,

C: whose soul is not set on what is false, who does not swear deceitfully.

M: He will receive blessing from the LORD

C: and righteousness from the God who saves him.

M: Such are the people of Jacob who look for the LORD,

C: who seek your face.

M: Lift up your heads, you gates. Lift yourselves up, you ancient doors,

C: and the King of Glory will come in.

M: Who is this King of Glory?

C: The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.

M: Lift up your heads, you gates. Lift up, you ancient doors,

C: and the King of Glory will come in.

M: Who is he, this King of Glory?

C: The LORD of Armies—he is the King of Glory.

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.

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 (EHV)

Christ came the first time so that by his saving work we might be found blameless and holy when he comes again.

⁹Indeed, how can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have before God on account of you? ¹⁰Night and day we are praying earnestly to see you in person and to supply what is lacking in your faith.

¹¹May God our Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord increase your love and make it overflow for each other and for all people, just as ours does for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts as blameless in holiness before our God and Father, when our Lord Jesus comes with all his saints.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Alleluia. (Revelation 22:20)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Lesson

Luke 19:28–40 (EHV)

Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey colt, knowing he would soon be put to death. This is why Christ came.

²⁸After Jesus had said these things, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. ²⁹As he came near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ahead, ³⁰saying, “Go to the village ahead of you. When you enter it, you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹And if anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ you will say this: ‘The Lord needs it.’”

³²Those who were sent ahead went and found things just as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, “Why are you untying the colt?”

³⁴They said, “The Lord needs it.”

³⁵Then they brought the colt to Jesus. They threw their robes on the colt and set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he went along, people spread their robes on the road. ³⁷As he was approaching the slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began to praise God joyfully, with a loud voice, for all the miracles they had seen, ³⁸saying,

“Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

³⁹Some of the Pharisees from the crowd said to him,
“Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

⁴⁰He replied, “I tell you, if these people would be
silent, the stones would cry out.”



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

327 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327 sts. Ref, 4-7



4 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from
5 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
6 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us
7 O come. De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the

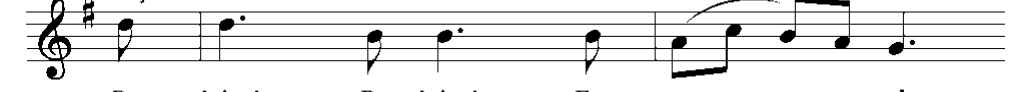


Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y
hearts of all man - kind; O bid our sad di -



peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
vi - sions cease, and be your - self our King of Peace.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
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Sermon Text & Theme

Jeremiah 33:14–16 (EHV)

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and
the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy Christian Church, the communion
of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offertory Prayer

Prayer of the Church

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. [*Special Petitions*] Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



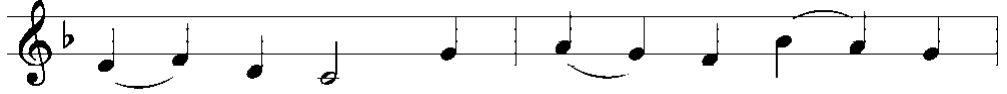
C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

313 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

CW 313



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt.
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain



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Announcements

Church Cleaners

December 8 – Barnabas // December 15 – Luke

Advent By Candlelight

The women of the congregation are invited to this year's Advent by Candlelight on December 7 at 1:30 pm. This special service and fellowship is designed to help prepare your hearts for Christmas. You are encouraged to invite your family and friends as well. Talk to Laura for more information or if you would like to help in any way.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

Su (1) 10:30 am Lay-led Worship

We (4) 4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)

Th (5) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (6) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study: Romans
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)

Sa (7) 1:30 pm Advent by Candlelight

Su (8) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class

10:30 am Worship with Communion

11:30 am Fellowship

3:00 pm Worship with Communion in Poltimore

We (11) 4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)

Th (12) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)

Fr (13) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study: Romans
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)

Su (15) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am Fellowship

12:00 pm Voters' Meeting