



FOURTH SUNDAY OF

# *Advent*

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**Sunday, December 21, 2025**  
Children's Christmas Service

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Service Theme

## **IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF EMMANUEL**

“Emmanuel” means “God with us.” It was a special name given to Jesus already 700 years before he was born. Who is with us when Jesus is with us? God himself. God became a human being in a special way, becoming truly human but remaining God. God is still with us. We encounter him in a special way when we gather with two or three others in worship. He is so near to us that the thrill of anticipation is almost unbearable. Let it wash over you as you celebrate Christmas this week.

### 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 four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

**C:** **We remember Jesus, whose name means Saviour. He came to save his people from their sins.**

**M:** We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

**C:** **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

**M:** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

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

327 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel CW 327 sts. 1, Ref, 2-4



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from  
 3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us  
 4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen

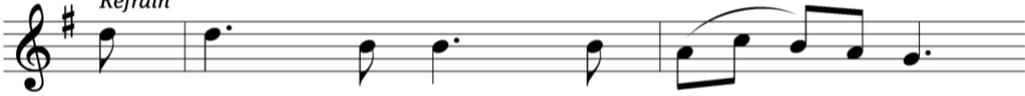


cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your  
 by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y  
 wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
 clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.

*Refrain*



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



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

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

## Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## The Children's Account of Christmas

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth...and it was very good.” (Genesis 1:1,31)

But the first people sinned against God. Now, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”(Romans 3:23)

We deserve hell, but God loves us and sent his son to be our Saviour.

### For God so Loved the World (Sung by the Children)

For God so loved the world  
That he gave his one and only son  
That whosoever believes in him  
Shall not perish, but have everlasting life!

So at just the right time, God sent his Son into the world.  
Hear the story of the very first Christmas:

“In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.” (Luke 2:1-7)

### Away in a Manger

*(CW 341. Verse 1 – Children. Verses 2 & 3 – congregation)*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and take us to heaven to live with you there.**

<sup>8</sup>“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” (Luke 2:8-15)

When the Angels Had Left Them  
*(Sung by the Children)*

When the angels had left them  
And gone into heaven  
The Shepherds said one to another  
How could we want for more  
This is what we waited for  
Gift of God in our time  
We will meet Messiah!  
Since the Lord told us to go  
We will keep our sheep in tow.  
Bethlehem, here we come  
To adore the Saviour!

<sup>16</sup> “So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” (Luke 2:16-20)

Mary's Song  
(Sung by Emily Sullivan)

My soul will magnify the Lord;  
I rejoice in God my Savior, in the wonder of His favor.  
For He has done great things for me;  
He was mindful of His servant.  
Every age shall call me blessed.

The Hope of Abraham come in the giving of a Son;  
For He who promised is mighty in remembering His mercy.

My soul will magnify the Lord for His grace to those who  
fear Him through every generation.  
The proud He scatters to the wind  
as the ruler's strength is broken,  
And the rich are left with nothing.

The humble lifted high, and the hungry satisfied;  
Our portion and our Treasure, our Hope and Help forever.

Gospel Lesson - Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. <sup>20</sup>**But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."**

**<sup>22</sup>All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.”**

**<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus.**

### Sermon Text & Theme

Matthew 1:20–24 (EHV)

#### **Who is this child?**

- 1) He is Jesus, the LORD's Saviour.
- 2) He is Immanuel, God with us.

### The Apostles' Creed

(Melody: CW 694 “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”)

**I believe in God the Father, Maker of the heav'n and earth. And in Jesus Christ, our Savior, God's own Son, of human birth. Virgin born, the Lord incarnate, whom the Spirit did conceive, suffered under Pontius Pilate; He's the God whom I believe.**

**Crucified, was dead and buried; Down to hell in victory; From the dead He rose the third day; Up to heaven triumphantly. There at God's right hand He's ruling, by his will the world is led. He will come to judge the nations, both the living and the dead.**

**I believe in God the Spirit; in His Church, His chosen band. They are joined in sweet communion; Holy in his sight they stand. I believe in sins forgiven; I believe I'll rise again; I believe in life eternal. Amen! Amen! Amen!**

## Offertory Prayer

### Confession and Absolution

(Please stand)

M: My fellow disciples, in the Lord's Supper, Jesus is coming to us in a very special way: as we receive the bread and the wine of communion, Jesus is present to give us his actual body and blood, and to pronounce forgiveness to each one of us personally. Because of the Lord's presence and his forgiveness in communion, the Apostle Paul wrote, "*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup.*" (1 Corinthians 11:28) Therefore, before the Lord comes to meet with us, let us honestly ask ourselves before God who knows our hearts:

1) Do you confess that you have sinned against God and deserve his anger and punishment? If so, then answer, "I do confess!"

**C: I do confess!**

M: It is good for you to confess because God's word says, "*When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*" (Psalm 32:3)

2) Are you sorry for the sins you have committed against God by things you have done, said and thought, and by the things you have failed to do? If so, then answer, "I do repent!"

**C: I do repent!**

M: It is right for you to repent because God's Word says, "*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not within us.*" (1 John 1:8)

3) Do you now believe that God will forgive you and save you for the sake of Jesus' perfect life and redeeming death? If so, then answer, "I do believe!"

**C: I do believe!**

M: It is right for you to believe because Jesus himself says, "*God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" (John 3:16)

4) Do you now promise by the power of the Holy Spirit to make every effort to turn away from sin and live for your Lord? If so, then answer, "I do so promise!"

**C: I do so promise!**

M: It is right for you to promise because God's Word says, "*Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.*" (Matthew 3:8)

### Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: As repentant and forgiven sinners, we now come to meet with our Lord.

**C: (sing) O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; Grant us your peace. Amen**

## Distribution

### 320 As Angels Joyed with One Accord CW 320 sts. 1-2, 6-7



1 As an - gels joyed with one ac - cord up - on the  
2 He came, not clothed in maj - es - ty nor pow'r that  
6 He comes to us in bread and wine to give him -  
7 Lift up your heads! All grief and pain shall van - ish



ad - vent of our Lord, so let us glad - ly  
suits his de - i - ty. In low - ly state he  
self and gifts di - vine. O praise him for this  
when he comes a - gain. Where we shall see him



praise the name of him who from the Fa - ther came.  
walked till he in dy - ing set us cap - tives free.  
sac - ra - ment, re - deem - ing love's great tes - ta - ment!  
face to face, there joy a - lone shall have a place.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905-1996, abr., alt. Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

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## Thanksgiving

**M:** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**C:** And his mercy endures forever.

**M:** We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## Prayer for Advent

Come, dear Savior. We long for your appearing!

Come to cheer us with your promises, as you once cheered your ancient people throughout their long night of waiting and watching.

Come to restore our hope. Rouse us from the slumber of despair; lift our hearts from petty, earthbound goals; and direct our eyes above, from where you will soon come to make all things right again.

Come and work in us a godly grief and a genuine sorrow over sin. Forgive us for the shameful way we have dishonored you and the shabby way we have dealt with one another. Through your mighty Word, stir up in us a ceaseless yearning to give ourselves to others, as you have given yourself for us.

Come also to rekindle our joy as we prepare to celebrate your first coming. Do not permit a frenzied busyness to rob us of your peace or to deprive us of times to ponder and to wonder at your Word. Set our hearts apart from the bustle and the clamor and the jostle of these days.

Fill us with the quiet delight of finding you in the manger, and keep hearts and minds undisturbed by the great throng that streams by uncaring.

We pray also for those enduring great sorrow, for those undergoing spiritual trial, and for those whose restless hearts have no knowledge of your coming. Comfort, strengthen, and illumine them with the sweet peace born of your love, and keep them in the way of peace by your Holy Word.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

Come quickly, dear Lord, and fill our longing eyes with the light of your coming! We wait, we keep watch, and in you we put our hope. Amen.

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.**

Benediction

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all  
C: **Amen.**

# 330 Peace Came to Earth

CW 330



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels  
 2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held the in - fant  
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and  
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied  
 in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and  
 blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you  
 I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!  
 side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!  
 vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!  
 brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
 Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Tune: Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952; arr. Mark Kellner, 1959–2015, alt.

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## **Announcements**

### ***Church Cleaners***

December 28 – John / January 4 - Simon

### ***Thank you***

The Pfothenhauer family would like to thank the Divine Word congregation for all their love and support as they mourn the passing of Pastor Tom Pfothenhauer. He is with Jesus.

### ***New Library Book***

Our very own Maddy Lindke has written a book and it is now available in the church library. Check out her book written to help children feel comfortable and participate in a church service. It provides information on all the parts of the service and then gives acceptable behavior for how to act. This is a wonderful resource for all parents and children. If you are interested in your own copy, you can purchase one through Amazon.ca or talk to Cyndi Pfothenhauer.

## DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (21) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**  
**10:30 am *Worship with Communion***  
11:45 am Coffee hour  
**3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore**  
4:00 pm Bible Class (Poltimore)
- We (24) 10:30 am Lessons and Carols @ Divine Word  
3:00 pm Lessons and Carols in Poltimore  
7:00 pm Lessons and Carols @ Divine Word
- Th (25) 11:00 am Christmas Day Service
- Su (28) 10:30 am Worship**  
11:30 am Coffee hour
- We (31) 5:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- Th (1) 10:30 am Longfields Manor Devotion
- Su (4) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Study**  
**10:30 am *Worship with Communion***  
11:45 am First Fellowship  
**3:00 pm Worship in Poltimore**  
4:00 pm Bible Class (Poltimore)



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