

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Grow in Faith. Live in Hope. Share God's Love.

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The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025 + 10:30 a.m.

The Holy Eucharist

Preparation for Worship in God's Name

PRAYER OF MEDITATION

*As the people gather before the service begins,
we invite you to use the following prayer for meditation.*

Make us, O Lord our God, watchful and heedful in awaiting the coming of your Son
Christ our Lord; that when he shall come and knock, he shall find us not sleeping in sin,
but awake and rejoicing in his praises; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

The Liturgy of the Word

HYMN “Come, thou long-expected Jesus” *Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.*



1 Come, thou long - ex - pec - ted Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - li - ver, born a child and yet a king;
4 By thine own e - ter - nal spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all suf - fi - cient me - rit, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

—Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715;
adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

During the hymn, Laurie Smith & Michelle Smith place the angel over the creche.

ACCLAMATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living God:

People: You come to your people and set them free.

Celebrant: There shall come forth a branch from the root of Jesse,
and all the earth shall be filled with his glory; *

People: And all flesh shall see the salvation of God, hallelujah.

Celebrant: Today we light the fourth candle, the candle of love. This flame signifies the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, the love that we recognize in a special way in the life of Jesus. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

RESPONSE “Magnificat”

The choir introduces the Antiphon and the people repeat.

Pro - claim the great - ness of God; re - joice in God my
Sa - vior! Re - joice in God my Sa - vior!

The choir sings the verses and the people join for the Antiphon:

1. For he has favored his lowly one, and all shall call me blessed.
The almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
Antiphon
2. He favors those who fear his name, in every generation;
He has shown the might and strength of his arm, and scattered the proud of heart.
Antiphon
3. He has cast the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with all good gifts and sent the rich away.
Antiphon
4. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy.
He promised his mercy to Abraham and his children for evermore.
Antiphon

The choir sings: Proclaim the greatness of God! Rejoice!

—Setting: James Chepponis, para. of Luke 1:46–55.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Remain standing; silence is kept.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

FIRST LESSON *Seated.*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah (7:10–16).

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

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

SECOND LESSON

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (1:1–7).

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “How bright appears the Morning Star” *Standing; everyone sings.*



1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing
2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a



from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;
pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;



O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and
the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -



Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:
phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;



Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,
Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it



draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.
thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.

—Words: William Mercer (1811-1873); after Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)
Music: *Wie schön leuchtet*, melody att. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608);
arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

GOSPEL *Remain standing.*

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (1:18–25).

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*Children may join Laura Airhart and Michelle Smith for Children’s Chapel.
They will return at the Peace.*

SERMON

A time for silent reflection follows the sermon.

CREED *Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.*



1 We be - lieve in God Al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that be,
2 We be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci - fied;
3 We be - lieve in God's own Spi - rit, bond - ing all the saints with - in



Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and sea.
tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied. True Life there had tru - ly died.
one church cath - o - lic, one church ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from sin;



We be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for us both Lord and Christ,
We be - lieve that oon the third day, Christ was raised up from the grave,
in the bo - dy's re - sur - rec - tion, for the break - ing of death's chain



of the Spi - rit and of Ma - ry born to bring a - bun - dant life.
then a - scend - ed to God's right hand. He will come a - gain to save.
gives the life that's ev - er - last - ing. This the faith that we have claimed.

—Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955–1993), alt.
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used by permission.
Music: *Greensleeves*, traditional English melody, adapted

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Remain standing.*

Leader: As we yearn for the coming of Christ and the time when all of creation will be made new, let us pray, saying: Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Leader: We pray for the Church throughout the world, that the work of her people might be a sign of God's hope to a broken world. Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Leader: We pray for the nation and all those who lead, that they may be guided by God's spirit of wisdom and understanding. Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Leader: We pray for the world, that the way of the Lord might be prepared for all to follow. Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Leader: We pray for the lowly and hungry throughout the world, that they may be assured of God's promise of mercy. Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Leader: We give thanks for those in our community celebrating birthdays and anniversaries; and we rejoice at the birth of Peter Raulin Sangster to Erin and Preston Sangster. We pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation: for those in the military, especially those who have been deployed; for the wider community of our families and friends; and for our parishioners who have asked our prayers;; that the gift of this community may sustain us all. We pray for:

ED Archer

BRONWYN Hogan

RARA Schlitt

CHIP Beets

MARGE Hudson

THE SCHOCH FAMILY

CHRISTINE Bell

FRANCIS Lloyd

THE STAPLETON FAMILY

MEGAN Brown

LISA Martin

DENISE Tivedo

BEVERLY Burns

NATALIE McNutt

IDALEE Vogel-Jackson

DAVID & NANCY Cazalet

PAT Pagni

SUE Wager

MARY Davis

KENT Parish

ALICE Wegmann

RON Dearolf

ALLAN Philp

MICHELE Welsh

DANA Downey

MARILYN Randall

and

DOUG Embler

KRISSA Randolph

GRADY Williams

JOYCE Grubb

JANE Reed

BEVERLY Guiler

ERIN Sangster

Leader: Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Leader: We pray for all who rest in the eternal light of Christ, especially Homer B. Hirt Jr., father of Ashlee Schoch, and Smith Murphey IV, father of Margaret Slattery, that we may one day join them in that place where the wolf and the lamb lie down together. Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Silence is kept for a space.

Celebrant: Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All kneel. Silence is kept for a space.

All: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

COMMISSIONING OF THE VESTRY *Seated.*

PEACE *Standing, all who are able.*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Seated.*

Holy Communion

OFFERTORY

All that we are and all that we have comes from God. Let us offer our best to God in thanksgiving, remembering that God loves a cheerful giver. (*2 Corinthians 9:7*)

ANTHEM *Sung by the Choir.*

The White Dove

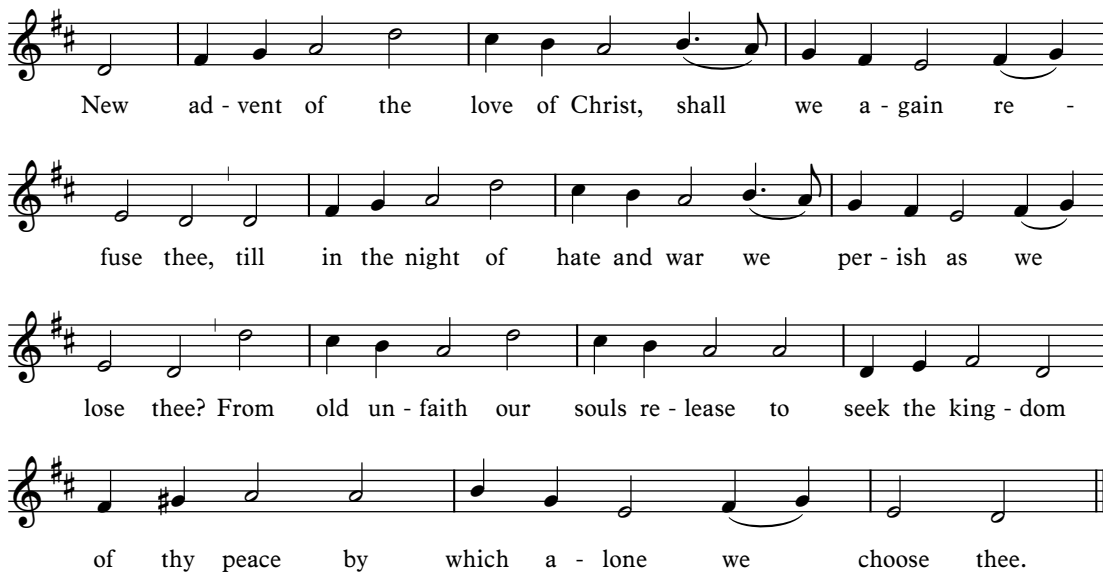
A dove as white as winter, from heaven came to earth,
And greeted there a maiden of humble birth.
She bowed her head and listened to his words.
That she, above all others, was favored by the Lord.
Kyrie eleison.

The heavenly gates will open, thou shalt have a son;
Emmanuel the most high, the King, the Chosen One.
For know, a blessed mother shalt thou be.
All coming generations will laud and honor thee.
Kyrie eleison.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus appear.
Arise, thou sun, so longed for above this darkened sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, Lord to see
The day of earth's redemption, and ever be with thee.
Kyrie eleison.

—Words: English text by Mark Schweizer;
st. 3 Laurentius Laurenti (1660–1722), trans. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.
Music *Täublein weiss*, Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

HYMN “New advent of the love of Christ” *Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.*



New ad - vent of the love of Christ, shall we a - gain re -
fuse thee, till in the night of hate and war we per - ish as we
lose thee? From old un - faith our souls re - lease to seek the king - dom
of thy peace by which a - lone we choose thee.

—Words: Walter Russell Bowie (1882–1969), alt..

Music: *Mit Freuden zart*, melody from “Une Pastourelle genétille,” 1529

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Everyone sings:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and God of might,
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

—Setting: *Missa Emmanuel*, Richard Proulx, based on *Veni Emmanuel*
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The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant: Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Celebrant: Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

All: AMEN.

Silence is kept as the ministers bow in thanksgiving.

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. Everyone sings:

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

—Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797–1828); arr. Richard Proulx (1937–2010)

INVITATION

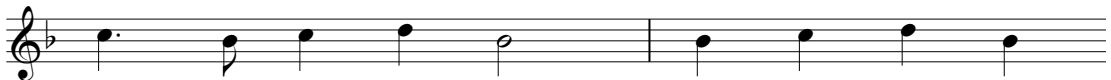
Celebrant: This is the table not of the righteous, but of the poor in spirit. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom our Savior identified. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which our Lord became incarnate. This is the table of Jesus Christ. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a while or ever before; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and all of us who have failed. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. It is Christ who invites you to be known and loved and fed here.

DURING COMMUNION

HYMN “Comfort, comfort ye my people” *Everyone sings.*



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

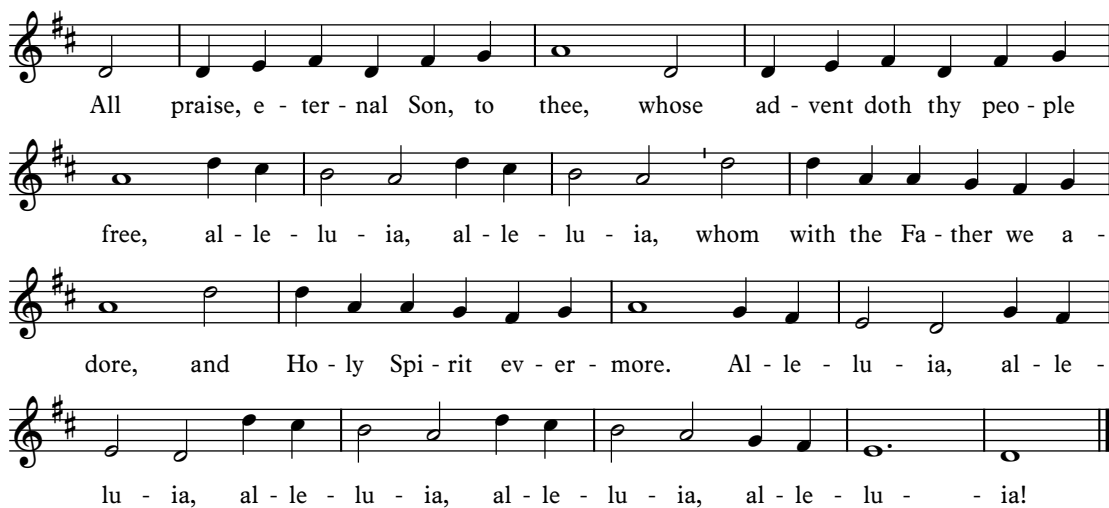


heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

—Words: Martin Luther (1483–1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340–397)
tr. William M. Reynolds (1812–1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)
Music: *Num komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524

ADVENT DOXOLOGY “All praise, eternal Son, to thee”

Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.



All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose ad - vent doth thy peo - ple
free, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, whom with the Fa - ther we a -
dore, and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

—Words: Charles Coffin (1676–1749); tr. C.W. Douglas (1867–1944), after John Chandler, (1806–1876); alt.
Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang*, 1623.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND MISSION *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

SENDING OF THE EUCHARISTIC VISITOR *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body,

People: Because we all share one bread, one cup.

BLESSING *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he whose Second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

HYMN “O come, O come, Emmanuel” *Everyone sings.*



1 O come. O come. Em - man - u - el. and ran - som

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy

5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen

7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile

3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the

5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on

7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.

5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!

7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

—Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.;
adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

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