

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 19, 2021

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, FALLS CHURCH, VA



PRELUDE

*Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel*  
Setting: Chuck Marohic

WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN (Stand) #357 Sts. 1, 4-7

*Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:

**cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sin, be our advocate in heaven, and bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

*(Silence for reflection)*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
**we confess that we have sinned against You and against our neighbor in thought, word and deed; through negligence, through weakness, and through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us on the cross, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may serve You in newness of life, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*KYRIE (Kyrie eleison means "Lord have mercy") (LSB #943)*

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

For peace in our hearts as we gather for worship, and for the peace of the whole world and the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

For the proclamation of the Gospel in this and every place and for the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

For grace to await our Lord's coming again in glory, and for the joyful anticipation of his coming into our hearts today, let us pray to the Lord:

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE (omitted during this penitential season)*

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord,

**and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**



*THE LITURGY OF THE WORD*

*FIRST LESSON (Be seated)*

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return

to the people of Israel.  
And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.  
And he shall be their peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*PSALM 80:1-7 (Read responsively)*

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.

**You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

**stir up your might and come to save us!**

Restore us, O God;

**let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

**You have fed them with the bread of tears**

**and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,

**and our enemies laugh among themselves.**

Restore us, O God of hosts;

**let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**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*

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body have you prepared for me;

in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,

as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

- 1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter  
**Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (Stand) #933

*My Soul Rejoices*

- 1 My soul rejoices,  
My spirit voices—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
For God my Savior  
Has shown me favor—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
With praise and blessing,  
Join in confessing  
God, who is solely  
Mighty and holy—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
His mercy surely  
Shall rest securely  
On all who fear Him,  
Love and revere Him—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!**

2 His arm now baring,  
His strength declaring—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
The proud He scatters,  
Their rule He shatters—  
Sing the greatness of the Lord!  
Oppression halted;  
The meek exalted.  
Full are the hungry;  
Empty, the wealthy—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!  
Here is the token  
All that was spoken  
To Abr'ham's offspring  
God is fulfilling—  
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

*NICENE CREED*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*OFFERING (Be Seated)*

*Offerings can be placed in the box at the sanctuary entrance following the service. Please place Fellowship Cards there too.*

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Stand)*

*The response to each petition will be:*

“Lord, in your mercy:”  
“hear our prayer.”



*THE LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION*

*PREFACE TO HOLY COMMUNION*

p. 160

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good right and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

*SANCTUS*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER*

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:

Endless is Your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life;

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.

You rescued Israel, your chosen people.

Through the prophets you renewed your promise;

And, at this the end of all ages, you sent your Son,

Who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

*THE WORDS OF OUR LORD*

*PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST*

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Therefore, gracious Father; with this bread and cup

We remember the life our Lord offered for us.

And believing the witness of his resurrection,

We await his coming in power to share with us

The great and promised feast.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and place,

And unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest

Until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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, forever and ever. Amen.**

PAX DOMINI

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION *(Be seated)*

*The Communion Assistant will come forward to receive first, then those from the pulpit side – by order of pew, front to back. Communicants will come up the center aisle and return via the side aisle. When all from the pulpit side have communed, the baptismal font side will commune in the same manner. Distancing must be maintained between all communicants. We ask that the wine be consumed away from the tray table. Empty cups should be dropped into the baskets.*

COMMUNION MUSIC  
Leavitt

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Setting: John

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT *(Stand)*

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN #341 *Sts. 1-2, 4-5*

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring;  
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise  
Your joyful songs of praise.**
  
- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe He brings;  
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise  
Your grateful hymns of praise.**

**4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
So shall your Sov'reign enter in  
And new and nobler life begin.  
To God alone be praise  
For word and deed and grace!**

**5 Redeemer, come and open wide  
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
O enter with Thy grace divine;  
Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on  
Until our glorious goal is won.  
Eternal praise and fame  
We offer to Thy name.**

*ANNOUNCEMENTS (Be seated)*

*DISMISSAL*

*POSTLUDE Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Setting: Jan Bender

Those serving:

Sunday, December 19, 8:30 a.m.:

Greeter: Christine M. Bell  
Comm. assist: Dede Dixon  
Reader: Anne Kauzlarich

10:30 a.m.:

Greeter: Steve Janssen  
Comm. assist: Judy Koucky  
Reader: Lynn Jacquez

Acknowledgements

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel **Text & Tune:** Public domain

My Soul Rejoices Text: © 1991 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005326

Tune: Public domain

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates **Text & Tune:** Public domain