

WORSHIP SERVICE FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

DIVINE SERVICE 3 p. 184

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES

LSB 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the
2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His character
3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the
4 Flung wide the portals of your heart; Make it a
5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to



King of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing
is humility, His kingly crown is holy
ruler is confessed! O peaceful hearts and happy
temple set apart From earthly use for heaven's
Thee; here, Lord, abide! O enter with Thy grace di-



near; The Savior of the world is here. Life and sal-
ness, His scepter, pity in distress. The end of
homes To whom this King in triumph comes! The cloudless
joy, Adorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
vine; Thy face of mercy on me shine. Thy Holy



vation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
Sovereign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.



To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weiszel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: August Lemke, 1820–1913
Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand)

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**
 P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
 C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
 C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

(Sit)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL **LSB 357** *sts. 1, ref, 2-3*



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy

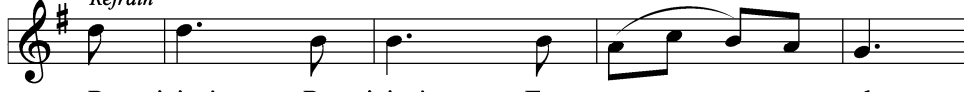


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst



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

Refrain



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



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

P 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.



C A - men.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 18:15–19

¹⁵“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

Psalm 145:18, 21

The LORD is near to all who | call on him,*

to all who call on | him in truth.

My mouth will speak the praise | of the LORD,*

and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and | ever.

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4–7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Stand)

ALLELUIA

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

PROPER

Psalm 40:17b

Alleluia. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God! Alleluia.

ALLELUIA

LSB 190



Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:19–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

(Sit)

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

LSB 57 *sts. ref, 4-7*



4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the

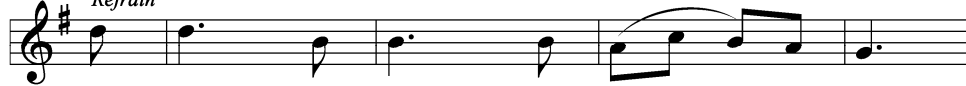


Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -



pow'r to 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 Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain



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



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

(Stand)

(Sit)

OFFERING

THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS LSB 348



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



- When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt. Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth
Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, You sent John the Baptist to proclaim the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Grant that we who prepare to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord, Jesus Christ, may die to sin and rise to new life, that we may treasure up and ponder in our hearts the Christ announced by Your forerunner. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of faithfulness, You have fulfilled Your promises by sending the Messiah. Grant that we may celebrate the birth of Christ by hearing the Word, singing Your praises, and receiving His body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty Father, You uphold all creation by Your hand. Preserve for Your Church and for future generations the institution of marriage between one man and one woman, which You established even before Adam and Eve's fall into sin, that Your Church may be blessed with many children and that our families may reflect the order of Your creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, You delight not in the death of the wicked. Grant to us and to all people freedom from war and disorder, strife and rebellion. Give us good government, faithful magistrates and peace to aid the swift spread of Your Gospel. Renew our hearts with thanksgiving for Your many blessings, and grant us the wisdom to use them to fulfill Your good purposes. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, grant all women with child and all mothers with infant children increasing happiness in their blessings [*especially* _____]. Look with compassion on the lonely, the depressed and the despairing. Grant healing to the sick, and give peace to the anxious and dying [*especially* _____]. Comfort all who mourn [*the death of* _____] with the certain hope of the resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, grant that those preparing to receive the Lord's Supper may rejoice in the presence of Your Son, our true Emmanuel, who comes to give us a share in Your divine life and forgiveness by His body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is truly the King of the nations and their desire. He, who formed us of clay, took on our human nature that He might save us. He came to His own and was rejected by them, yet You established Him as the true cornerstone, tested and precious, that whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; for You live and reign, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

SALUTATION



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 202



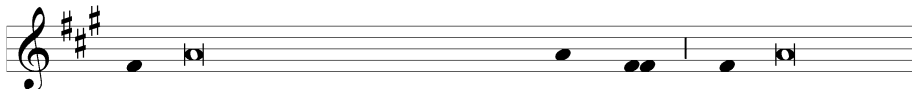
A Bless we the Lord.



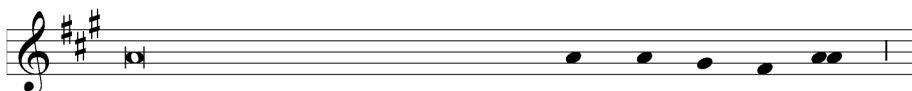
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

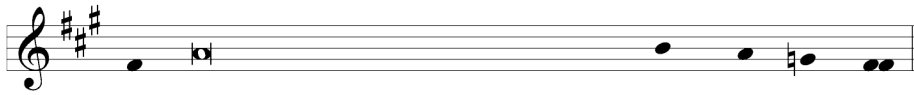
LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



☐ A-men, a-men, a - men.

LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD

LSB 352



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - lished in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
Text and tune: Public domain

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