St. Paul's Lutheran Church Worship Sunday, December 19, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Advent Setting One of the ELW

Prelude - In Dulci Jubilo by Johann Michael Bach

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P In the name of the Father, and of the

 Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.
- P Most merciful God,
- C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
- C Amen.
- P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the \mathbb{F} Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

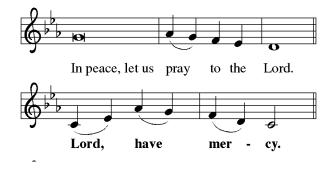
Gathering Song - Savior of the Nations, Come

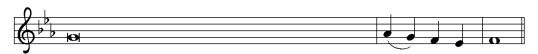
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Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

KYRIE





For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

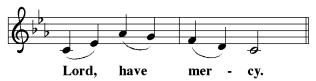


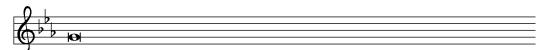


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray the Lord. to





For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



Lord. let us to the pray



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



CANTICLE OF PRAISE – THIS IS THE FEAST



- P The Lord be with you
- C And also with you
- P Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, 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.

Amen.

WORD Children's Message

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,

whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH Hymn - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – verse 4

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Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

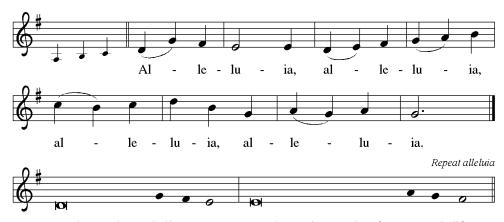
⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸When 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), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Acclamation



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[46And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - Unexpected and Mysterious

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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,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary

and became truly human.

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,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need (*especially*), Barbara, Jan, Tony, JoAnn, Janet, Joyce, Ida, Phyllis, Bob, Ellie, Barbara, Naomi, Fran, Anastasia, Larry, David, Dorothy, and others we may name aloud or quietly in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness (*especially*). Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

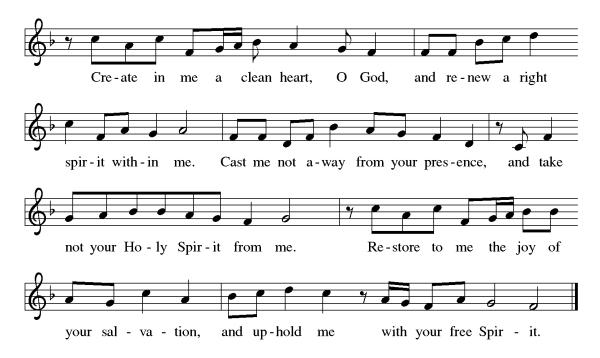
C And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory - In Dulci Jubilo by Marcel Dupré

Offertory - Create in Me a Clean Heart



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

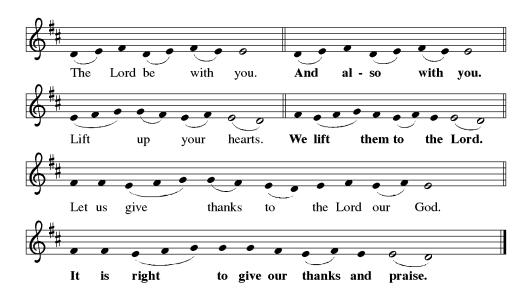
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Offertory Prayer

- P Let us pray together
- C God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

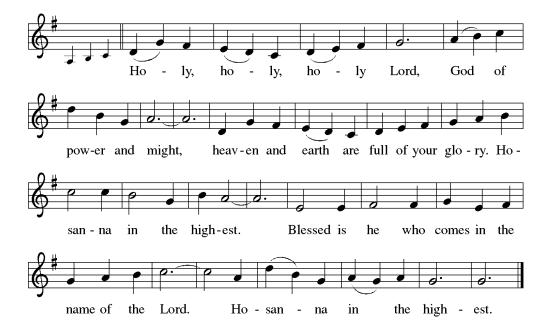


Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy Holy Holy



Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

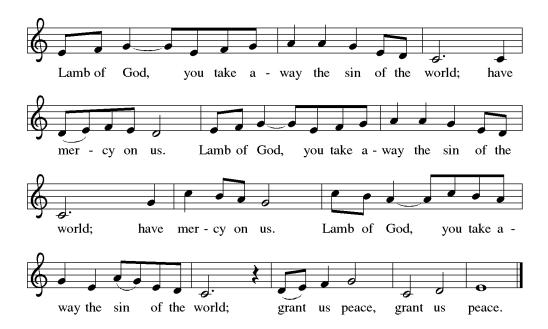
LORD'S PRAYER

A Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

P Come to the banquet for all is ready.

forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION SONG – LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

And each person may respond Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN – O Little Town of Bethlehem

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POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God...

A We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

OR

O God, we give you thanks...

A O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

OR

God of abundance...

A God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN – Joy to the World

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DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C We will. Thanks be to God.

Postlude - In Dulci Jubilo from Orgelbüchlein by J. S. Bach

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On the First Sunday of each month, we will offer drive through communion at the rear entrance of the church from 11:30 am until noon.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God with the following recognitions:

- ♣ In memory of loved ones by the Foreman Family
- ♣ In honor of Larry's birthday on December 14, Olivia's birthday on December 21, and in celebration of Larry and Marilyn Hawley's 25th anniversary on December 22 by Marilyn and Larry Hawley
- ♣ In memory of Addie Sturgeon Felkel by Mary Sturgeon

Altar Flowers

If you would like to make a recognition through a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you would like to request, pick up an envelope and form in the lower box and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, please speak with a staff person.

Prayer of the Church (Members): Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Tony Perrotte, JoAnn Bowman, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Ida Elliott, Phyllis Jenkins, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Barbara Shade, Naomi Watson, Fran Whitfield, Anastasia Smith, Larry Hawley, David Franzen, Dorothy O'Neill

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time,** email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews [Tony's mother], Robert Meissner [Tony's uncle], and Dian and Gina Piazza [friends] (by Tony and Penni Perrotte); Laura Williams (friend of Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Phillip Idom & Warner Ettinger (friends of the Perrotte's), Pamela Kildahl (sister of Wendy Waugh), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Lois Horn (friend of Penni Perrotte), Marti Casalino (friend of Marcia Redman), David Deardorff (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Virginia Hinshaw (great-grandmother of Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Gad Kainer, Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Dean Greg Jones of Duke Divinity, Chuck Noll (friend of the Waugh's), Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Marjorie Bower (daughter of Doug and Fran Whitfield), Linda Leslie (mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (brother of Bob DeVries), Twila Dahl (sister-in-law of Bill Dahl and Martha Dahl), Gini Rinkus (friend of the Dominicks), Betty Sue Dickerson and son Barry Dickerson (friends of the church), Elaine Williamson (sister-in-law of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Clarence Schulze (father of Sharon Schulze), Paul (son-in-law of Jan Huntley), Mary Bader, Cynthia Sund (grandmother of Megan Cunningham), Steve and Hut Craig (family of Pat Casper), Amy Natzle (friend of Megan Cunningham), McKay Family (by Pat Casper), Ruth Parker (aunt of Pat Casper), mother of Warren Pusak, Jane Busch (sister-in-law of Audrey Busch)

On Sunday mornings, we want to be sure our handicapped persons have accessible seating in the sanctuary. We have therefore added reserved signs to three of our handicap rows for their use.

Nurturing Committee – Be-Friend – The Be-Friend branch of the nurturing Committee has sprouted. The flowers on the Caring Tree (in the narthex) have blossomed into bold Words of Hope. These are supportive scriptures that Nurturing Committee members and others have pointed to as meaningful. Also, in the basket unit by the Caring Tree are items put together to add a smile as you grow and develop a new and/or an already up and running relationship. Look for the clear portfolio Be-Friend Idea Starter Kit as well as card making and other supplies in this place. Help yourself!

Join the Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11. Here is the info:

Topic: Coffee Hour, Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays

Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRlgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09

Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 - Password: 292680

"By Heart" – Vicar Mac is leading a study of "By Heart," a historical, theological, and spiritual deep-dive into Luther's Small Catechism. Classes meet on Wednesdays, at 7:00 pm, off now for Christmas break but resuming on January 5. The classes will be about seven weeks, unless the discussions run longer. In-person in Trinity Hall and Zoom will both be available. Email Vicar Mac (vicar@stpaulsdurham.org) with any questions.

St. Paul's Readers – During the month of December, our church book club takes a holiday break. We are currently finalizing our 2022 reading list. The January book is Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Frann. The book chronicles one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history. Members of the Osage Nation in the 1920s were the richest people in the world. Then, one by one, they began to be killed off. The newly created FBI was called upon to unravel these mysterious deaths. Barb Shade will lead the discussion on Thursday, January 20.

St. Paul's Readers meet at 3 pm on the third Thursday of the month in Trinity Hall. Please consider participating. We welcome all readers – men and women! Contact Katherine Trexler

(katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com) with any questions.

Thursday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 AM

Bible Study will be in Trinity Hall and over Zoom. We are studying the book: Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis. We will send emails if any study guides are needed. The Bible Study will be off now for Christmas break, returning on Thursday, January 6.

Here is the zoom information.

Topic: Pastor's Bible Study

Time: Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM (and the weeks following will use the same link)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89526693517?pwd=UVI2SIdvRTVtYTdQOHFEa2N1THREdz09

Meeting ID: 895 2669 3517 -- Passcode: 727541

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,89526693517#,,,,*727541# US (New York)

+13017158592,,89526693517#,,,,*727541# US (Washington DC)

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kjXLtywXY

Croasdaile Worship in December – The Croasdaile worship in December will be held on Thursday, December 23 at 2:00 pm. Still on the 4th Thursday of the month.

St. Paul's In-Person Worship and Building Guidelines

The Reopening Task Force met and reviewed the rules announced by our governor and the CDC.

- On Sunday mornings, we will continue to meet at 10:00 am for one worship service, socially distancing in the sanctuary at every other pew, and also gathering in Trinity Hall where the service is projected. All will gather in the sanctuary for Holy Communion.
- We will still wear masks in worship in an effort to offer some protection from disease. We will allow singing and humming while masked.
- All areas of the church are purified with IWave technology which eliminates up to 97% of all virus and bacteria
 particles.
- Committees may begin meeting in person or a combination of in person and zoom. Contact the church office to reserve space.
- In order to be able to offer in person worship we need assistance on Sunday morning. Visit the listing below of Sign-Up Genius links. We also need people to help with the new video and sound equipment. Contact Curtis Chi or Tim Hoke if you would like to be trained.

We are using a live link to view our weekly Worship Services on Sundays at 10:00 AM Here is the link: https://vimeo.com/event/1478223 The live feed is a much better video experience and the recording of this live service will be put on the vimeo site after the service is concluded and can be watched at any time. That link is: https://vimeo.com/stpaulsdurham (then choose the service date or event you wish to watch).

We are in need of worship assistants! Here is a listing of the Sign-Up Genius links we are presently using to accomplish our many needed tasks. Please fill in as you are able. You can bookmark these sites to make it easier to return to them.

- ♦ Devotions https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1 Please send your devotions to Vicar Mac Mullins at vicar@stpaulsdurham.org
- Sunday Morning 10:00 AM Worship Tasks
 https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1
 Tasks include setting up, lector, worship assistant, sound, video, altar guild, etc.
- ♦ Sunday morning 10:00 AM Communion Assistants and Lock-Up https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-communion

Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav ior of the na tions, come; vir gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu man flesh and blood, but the mys tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won-drous birth—oh, won-drous child—from his throne, a vir gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;

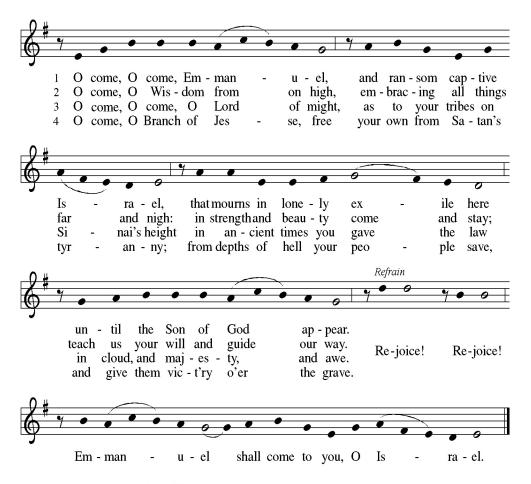


Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho-sen such a birth. God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, was the Word of blos - som fresh. God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run! van-quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

- 5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!
 To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version Music: Nun комм, der Heiden Heiland, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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- 5 O come, O 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*
- O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. Refrain
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 \otimes 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

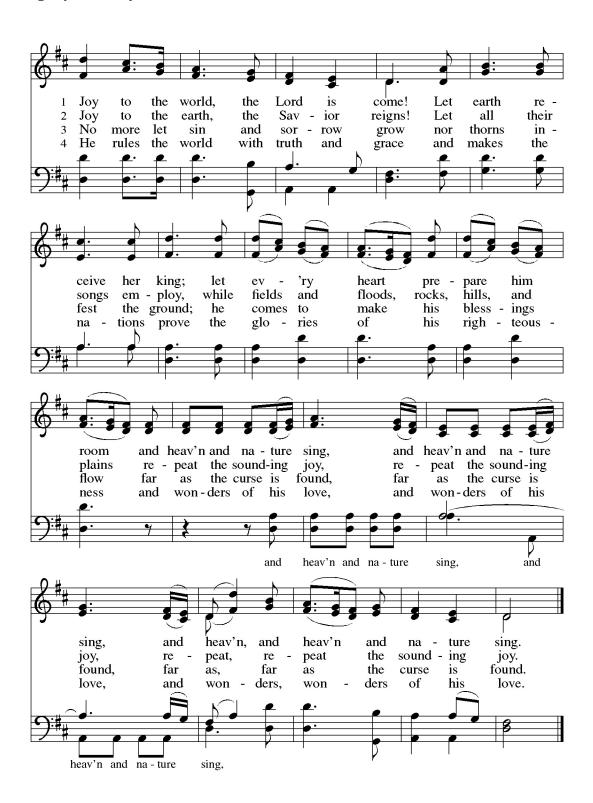


Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961
Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984
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Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893 Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872