

December 18, 2022 Fourth Sunday in Advent

LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT

*Those who are able are invited to stand.

Preparation

Pre-service music (A time for silence in preparation for worship.)

*Liturgy for the Lighting of the Advent Candles (back page)

Lessons and Carols

Antiphon: **Wisdom**

Hymn Stanza:

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh: in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

1st Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah, the fortieth chapter: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

*Hymn: "Comfort, Comfort now my people" LBW #29 (located on the song sheet)

*Prayer of the Day

Let us Pray....Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Antiphon: **Adonai** Hymn Stanza:

O come, O come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

2nd Lesson: Isaiah 12:2-6

A reading from Isaiah, the twelfth chapter: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

*Hymn: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" LBW #25 (located on the song sheet)

Antiphon: Root of Jesse

Hymn Stanza:

O come, strong Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

3rd Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-5, 10

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah, the eleventh chapter: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as an ensign to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

*Carol: "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" LBW #23 (1,3,4 &5) (located on the song sheet)

Meditation Rev. Laura Cadmus

Antiphon: Key of David

Hymn Stanza:

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. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

4th Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah, the sixty-first chapter: The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion-to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I well make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

*Carol: "Come, O Precious Ransom" LBW #24 (located on the song sheet)

Antiphon: **Dayspring**

Hymn Stanza:

O come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

5th Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-3

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah, the sixtieth chapter: Arise, shine: for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

*Carol: "Creators of the Star of Night" (located on the song sheet)

Antiphon: King of Nations

Hymn Stanza:

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. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

6th Lesson: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from the Book of Second Peter, the third chapter: Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Carol: "The King of Glory" (located on the song sheet)

Antiphon: **Emmanuel**

Hymn Stanza:

O come, O come, Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the Gospel of Mark, the first chapter: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

*Carol: "Prepare the Royal Highway" LBW #26 (located on the song sheet)

*Responsive Prayer (Leader/Congregation)

O Lord, our God, be gracious to us;

we wait for you.

Dispel the darkness,

that all nations may come to your light.

Establish your peace on the earth;

join our voices to sing your praise.

Comfort the sick and weary;

renew their strength and power.

Here other petitions may be offered by worshipers.

O Lord, our God, come to us,

that the earth may behold your glory. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Peace and Offertory
The Peace of the Lord
Offertory



Offertory Prayer - L: God of Abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience, hope and love, as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Penitential Rite

Invitation to Confession:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession:

God of all time, we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

Absolution:

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 \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Meal

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE:

The Lord be with you

And also with you

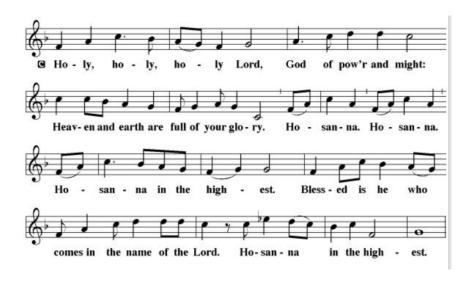
Lift up your hearts

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 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:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,

our Salvation and our Hope,

we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,

you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages

your Son Jesus came to bring us your love

and to heal all the suffering world.

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 life, death, and resurrection,

we await his coming again

in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us

and on this bread and wine we share:

strengthen our faith,

increase our hope,

and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,

Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,

both now and forever. Amen

Our Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Fraction

Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)



INVITATON TO COMMUNION

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen

Prayer after Communion

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our Guest. **Amen.**

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

Psalm 96: 9-13 (Leader/Congregation)

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

let the whole earth tremble before him.

Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!

He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

let the sea thunder and all that is in it;

let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes,

when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness

and the peoples with equity.

Pastor:

Be praised, O God, for the blessings around us that point to you.

Be praised, O God, for the signs of this holy season that awaken in us wonder. Praise for the steadfast green of this tree, which like your love, endures all seasons.

Praise for the lights that will illumine our darkness, like Christ, who brings light to the world.

Praise and thanks for the children who enrich our lives and gather around to hear your Word and celebrate the mystery of your birth.

Bless those who decorate this tree with symbols of your love and eternal grace, and those who will view it, that all together may join our voices with those of the tree and of all creation, who sing at your coming: "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth!"

And let all together say: AMEN!

Benediction

May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice.

May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.

May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance. The blessing of the holy Trinity, one God, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

*Hymn: "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" (located on the song sheet)

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.



ADVENT WEEK 4 **CANDLE LIGHTING LITANY** SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022

God of Hope, we are grateful for the gift of belonging. We are in awe of your love, so deep that you came to dwell with us in Christ. In this season of waiting and watching in the wilderness, remind us that love often shows up in ways we least expect. Give us the wisdom to pay attention. God of the wilderness:

EMBOLDEN US TO SHINE YOUR HOPE INTO ALL THE WORLD.

God of Hope, as we light this fourth candle, we remember the uncertainty and discomfort into which Joseph stepped with faith and trust. As we sit in uncomfortable places of our own, give us the strength and discernment to know when to stay, and when to move on. Guide us to be a sign of your presence in the lives of our neighbors experiencing difficult times. God of the wilderness:

EMBOLDEN US TO SHINE YOUR HOPE INTO ALL THE WORLD.

God of Hope, today we remember our neighbors in Tanzania who are working so hard to break the chains of poverty in which they are ensnared. Be with Maria, her fellow teachers, and all students who put their heads down to study and look up to a bright future. Give them creativity and determination. From their example, may we have the wisdom to recognize your grace in our lives in things big and small. God of the wilderness:

EMBOLDEN US TO SHINE YOUR HOPE INTO ALL THE WORLD.

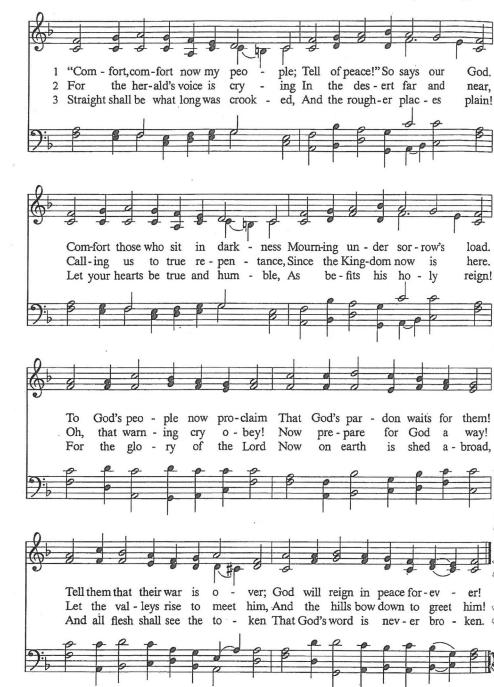
God of Hope, thank you for the gift of being part of your global family. May we be strengthened by our connection to you and to one another, trusting that in your abundance there is always more than enough. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the One we long for in this season of hope.

AMEN.



29

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



O Lord, How Shall I Meet You





thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.

stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you

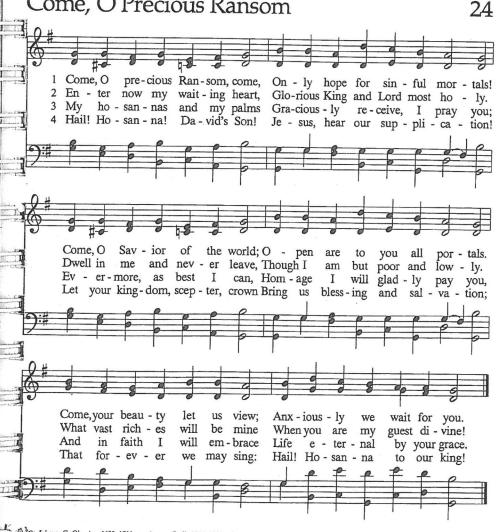
Oh, kin - dle, Lord most breast ho ly, your lamp with - in my My heart shall bloom for - ev - er for you with prais-es new glo - rious crown you high Α give me, a trea - sure safe on Oh, love be - youd all tell - ing, that led you to brace



- 5 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom, who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom. Despair not; he is near you, there, standing at the door, who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations, a terror to his foes, a light of consolations and blessed hope to those who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come, send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.

came to hon - or

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johan Crüger, 1598–1662



Creator of the Stars of Night



The King of Glory



Prepare the Royal Highway



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

