

AS WE GATHER - By this time next week, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will have come and gone for another year. But we will have had another opportunity to celebrate the coming of Jesus, our Emmanuel, the One who comes "with the treasures of His grace to enrich the humble poor" (LSB 349:3). By His grace, our coming King enriches us in every way. As we worship, we have one more chance to listen to the special sounds of Advent as we hear them echo in the readings from Scripture, in the voices singing the hymns of the season around us, and in our praying together as the redeemed of the Lord in hope await His coming.

PRESERVICE DUET

Various Christmas Carols

Beth Buss & Beth Tevah

WELCOME

[♩Means please stand; ♪Means please be seated]

♪ **OPENING HYMN**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a



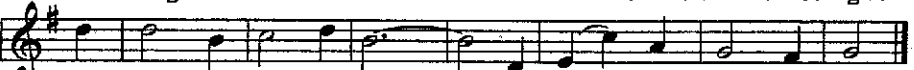
King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
 is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
 rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
 ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
 homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
 all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.
 sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!

(continued)

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.

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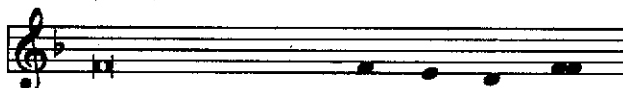
INVOCATION

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
C Amen.

ADVENT ANTIPHONS

- P** *O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage:*
C Come quickly to deliver us.
P *O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:*
C Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.
P *O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior:*
C Come and save us, O Lord our God.
P *Come, O Lord, among us!*
C Jesus, our Emmanuel! Alleluia! Amen.

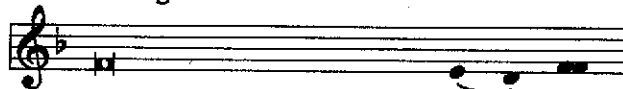
OPENING SENTENCES



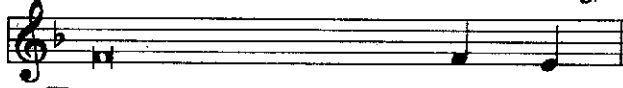
L Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



C the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



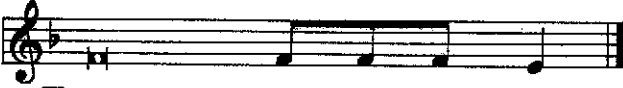
L Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



C and the day is almost o - ver.



L Let Your light scatter the dark - ness



C and il - lu - mine Your Church.

PHOS HILARON

Hymn of Light

The musical score is written on ten staves of music. The lyrics are as follows:

L Joy - ous light of glo - ry:
G of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,
bless - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the
set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.
We sing to God, the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it:
You are wor - thy of be - ing praised with pure voic - es for -
ev - er. O Son of God, O Giv - er of life:
the u - ni - verse pro - claims Your glo - ry.

THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

P *Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

POLD TESTAMENT READING

Joshua 2:1-14

And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.² And it was told to the king of Jericho, "Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land."³ Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land."⁴ But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from."⁵ And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them."⁶ But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of

flax that she had laid in order on the roof.⁷ So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords. And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

⁸ Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof⁹ and said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. ¹² Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign ¹³ that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and that you will save us from death." ¹⁴ And the men said to her, "Our life for yours even to death! If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY

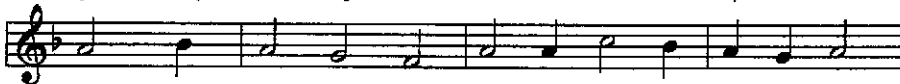
Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



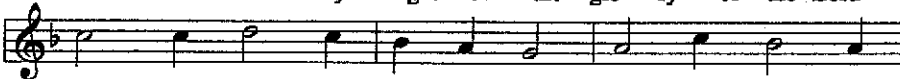
1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace," thus
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each
 3 Hark, the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
 Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall

(continued)



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver."
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

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SERMON

"RAHAB"

Joshua 2:1-14

OFFERING

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

by Jan Bender

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina G. Rossetti, 1830-94

CRANHAM
 Gustav Holst, 1874-1935



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, Frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Heav - en can - not hold Him, Nor earth sus - tain;
 3 What can I give Him, Poor as I am?



Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;
 Heav'n and earth shall flee a - way When He comes to reign;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - win - ter, A sta - ble place suf - ficed The
 If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; Yet



In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - go.
 Lord God Al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 what I can I give Him— Give my heart.

Text and tune: Public domain

LITANY

- P** *In peace let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *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 to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

(continued)

- P** *For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:*
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For Matthew Harrison, our Synod president; Roger Schlechte, our district president; and Joseph Murphy, our circuit visitor, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:*
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:*
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:*
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:*
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:*
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:*
C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord:*
C **Alleluia.**
- P** *Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

[Silence for individual prayer may follow.]

- P** *Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord:*
C **To You, O Lord.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

- C** **I thank You, my heavenly Father; through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** *O Lord Jesus Christ, 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.**

BENEDICAMUS

- P** *Let us bless the Lord.* **C** **Thanks be to God.**

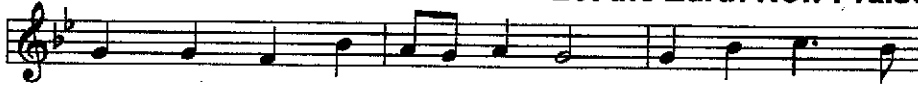
BENEDICTION

P *God Almighty bless you with Advent peace. The Lord Jesus Christ keep you from all harm as you await His returning in glory. The Holy Spirit remain in your heart and life, now and forever.*

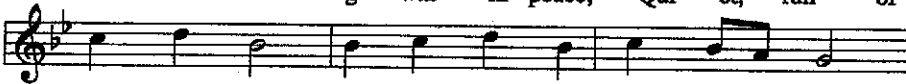
C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



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 - filled 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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE "On This Day, Earth Shall Ring"

by Wilbur Held

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WE WISH TO THANK the following for their participation in our worship service this evening:

Acolyte Noah Wohletz
 Altar Guild Elsie Leiker, Sharon Milliken, Beth Tevah
 Organist / Music Director Beth Buss
 Cantor Cameron Hatton
 Duet Beth Tevah
 Ushers Naomi Kettner, Bob Sees, Phil Vandre