

Prelude & Ringing of the Bells

Opening Hymn

343 Once in Royal David's City

VERSES 1 & 2 WILL BE SUNG BY A SOLOIST AND THE CHOIR
THE CONGREGATIONS STANDS AND SINGS VERSES 3 & 4

Confession of Sins

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy Child.

But first, let us confess our sins and ask for forgiveness:

Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BE SEATED

Nine Lessons & Carols

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8–15

The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

⁸They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself." ¹¹God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock, and more than every wild animal. You shall crawl on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel. (EHV)

Hymn 315 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord, verses 1–2, 5

Second Lesson

Jeremiah 23:5–6

God will raise up for David a Righteous Branch.

⁵Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, who will reign wisely as king and establish justice and righteousness on earth. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will dwell securely. This is his name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. (EHV)

Hymn 360 Behold, a Branch is Growing, verses 1–2

Third Lesson

Isaiah 35:1–10

God will prepare a way in the wilderness for His people.

The wilderness and the dry land will be glad. The desert will rejoice and blossom like a rose. ²It will blossom abundantly, and there will be great joy and singing. Lebanon's glory will be given to it, it will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make feeble knees firm. ⁴Tell those who have a fearful heart, "Be strong. Do not be afraid. Look! Your God will come with vengeance, with God's own retribution he will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be cleared. ⁶The lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy. Waters will flow in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. ⁷The burning sand will become a pool, and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water. Grass, reeds, and rushes will be in the haunts where the jackals once lay. ⁸A highway will be there, a road, and it will be called The Holy Way. The unclean will not walk there. It will be for those who walk in that Way. Wicked fools will not wander onto it. ⁹No lion will be there, nor will any ravenous animal go up on it. They will not be found there, but the redeemed will walk there. ¹⁰Then those ransomed by the LORD will return, they will come singing to Zion, and everlasting joy will be on their heads. They will obtain happiness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away." (EHV)

Hymn

302 Prepare the Royal Highway, verses 1 & 4

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 40:1–11

The LORD promises to send His messenger to point to the coming Messiah

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her. Her warfare really is over. Her guilt is fully paid for. Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice is calling out: In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD. In the wasteland make a level highway for our God. ⁴Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The rugged ground will become level, and the rough places will become a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh together will see it. Yes, the mouth of the Lord has spoken. ⁶A voice was saying, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry out?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside. ⁷Grass withers, flowers fade, when the breath of the LORD blows on them. Yes, the people are grass. ⁸Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever. ⁹Get up on a high mountain, O Zion, you herald of good news. Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, you herald of good news. Lift it up! Do not be afraid! Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰Look, God the LORD will come with strength, and his arm is ruling for him. Look, his reward is with him. The result of his work is in front of him. ¹¹Like a shepherd he will care for his flock. With his arm he will gather the lambs. He will lift them up on his lap. He will gently lead the nursing mothers. (EHV)

Hymn

312 Comfort, Comfort All My People, verses 1–2

Fifth Lesson

Isaiah 7:10–14

The Lord promises that a son shall be conceived, and called Emmanuel.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, ¹¹"Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, neither will I test the LORD." ¹³So Isaiah said: "Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the LORD himself will give you all a sign. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and call his name Immanuel. (EHV)

Hymn

301 Savior of the Nations, Come, verses 1–3

Sixth Lesson

Micah 5:2–4

The One who shall be ruler of Israel will be born in Bethlehem.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah,

from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity. ³Therefore the LORD will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel. ⁴He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth. (EHV)

Hymn 335 To Shepherds as They Watched by Night, verses 1–2

Seventh Lesson

Zechariah 9:9–12

The King comes in humble fashion, but to powerfully rescue His people.

Rejoice greatly, Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! Look! Your King is coming to you. He is righteous and brings salvation. He is humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem. The battle bow will be taken away, and he will proclaim peace to the nations. His kingdom will extend from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth. ¹¹As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you I will release your prisoners from the waterless pit. ¹²Return to the stronghold, you prisoners who have hope. This very day I declare that I will restore double to you. (EHV)

Hymn 306 Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates, verses 1–2 & 5

Eighth Lesson

Luke 1:26–38

An angel announces to Mary she will bear the Savior of the world, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

²⁹But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. ³¹Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible for God.”

³⁸Then Mary said, “See, I am the Lord’s servant. May it happen to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her. (EHV)

Hymn 328 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came, verses 1–3

Ninth Lesson

Matthew 1:18–25

The Savior of the world is born, in fulfilment of prophecy and the angelic announcements.

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. ²⁰But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.” (EHV)

Hymn

345 Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Meditation

The Prayers

Prayer of the Church *THE ANCIENT “O ANTIPHONS”*

Intercessions may follow the prayer

Let us pray: O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed of the nations and their Savior, come and save us, O Lord our God.

♪ **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!**

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily order all things; come and teach us the way of prudence.

♪ **O come, our Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai, come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

♪ **O come, oh, come, our Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law, in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage, come quickly to deliver us.

♪ **O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem. From every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty pow'r to save: Bring them in victory through the
grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

♪ **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!**

O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

♪ **O come, O Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone for uniting all people, come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

♪ **O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease, and be yourself the King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Stand

The Sacrament

Preface

CW 165



The Lord be with you.



And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up 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 and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy Sanctus

CW 1066

Tune: JEG VIL MIG HERREN LOVE



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Text: Michael D. Schultz; Tune: Koral-Melodier, 1801;
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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.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread... in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*

CW 1059

Tune: PUER NOBIS



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled

cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will

took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Latin, 15th cent.

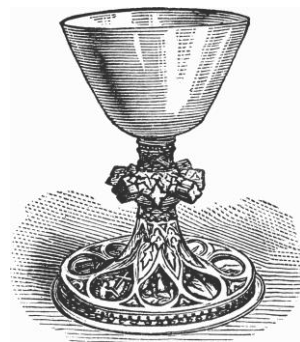
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Tune: Public domain

Be seated

To Our Guests:

Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church practices “**Close Communion.**” Those who are of our fellowship, that is, members in good standing of congregations of CELC member synods, such as the WELS and ELS may commune at our altar. All others are asked to meet with the pastor privately during the week to talk about becoming communicants at our altar. Thank you for respecting our historic and Scriptural practice. (1 Cor. 11:27; Romans 10:17).



Distribution Hymn

321 God's Own Son Most Holy



1 God's own Son most ho - ly came a ser - vant
2 Still he comes in preach - ing, truth e - ter - nal
3 Still he comes pro - vid - ing proof of love a -
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re -



low - ly, came to live a - mong us,
teach - ing: "Turn a - way from e - vil;
bid - ing: he whose death has freed us
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing



came to suf - fer for us; bore the cross to
turn to me, my peo - ple. I pro-nounce you
gives him - self to feed us, thus to us ex -
that, your grace re - ceiv - ing, we may here con -



save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
sin - less; trust in my for - give - ness."
tend - ing peace and joy un - end - ing.
fess you till in heav'n we bless you.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547, abr.; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

Tune: attr. Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534

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After all have communed, please stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

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

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.
Amen.

Closing Hymn 313 Hark the Glad Sound! the Savior Comes



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt.
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Communion Service: Setting One from Christian Worship

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